

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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Free to Deployed Areas

## Moment of truth for Mosul

Peshmerga face weakened militant force along road to Iraq stronghold

By JAD SLEIMAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

**HASSANSHAM, Iraq** — The farthest edge of the Mosul highway still controlled by Iraqi and Kurdish forces ends in towering concrete barriers. Immediately beyond are blackened craters blasted by speeding suicide car bombs and the Islamic State positions.

It's here — a 20-minute drive from Mosul on the road linking it to the Kurdish capital of Irbil — that the Kurdish troops, known as peshmerga, hold the line in full view of the militants' fighting positions. But it remains uncertain if or when they will march into Iraq's second-largest city and the extremists' stronghold.

The Islamic State group's blitzkrieg, which stunned the world and shocked the West into action with its summer conquests across northern Iraq, is no more, the Kurds say.

**SEE MOSUL ON PAGE 4**

**A peshmerga soldier holds a defensive position along the Mosul highway on Dec. 8.**

JAD SLEIMAN/Stars and Stripes



## US tight-lipped about progress against Islamic State

By NANCY A. YOUSSEF  
*McClatchy Washington Bureau*

**WASHINGTON** — The American war against the Islamic State group has become the most opaque conflict the United States has undertaken in more than two decades, a fight that's so underreported that U.S. officials and their critics can make claims about progress, or lack thereof, with no

definitive data available to refute or bolster their positions.

The result is that it's unclear what impact more than 1,000 airstrikes on Iraq and Syria have had during the past four months. That confusion was on display at a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing last week, where the topic — "Countering ISIS: Are We Making Progress?" — proved to be a question without an answer.

"Although the administration notes that 60-plus countries [have] joined the anti-ISIS campaign, some key partners continue to perceive the administration's strategy as misguided," Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif., the committee's chairman, said in his opening statement at the hearing, using a common acronym for the Islamic State group. "Meanwhile, there

are grave security consequences to allowing ISIS to control a territory of the size of western Iraq and eastern Syria."

The dearth of information by which to judge the conflict is one of the difficulties for those trying to track progress in it. The U.S. military, which started out announcing every air mission almost as soon as it ended, now

publishes roundups of airstrikes three times a week. Those releases often don't specify which strikes happened on what days or even whether a targeted site was successfully hit. McClatchy has discovered that in some cases, the location given for bombings has been inaccurate by nearly 100 miles.

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### MILITARY

Holiday wreaths adorn veterans' graves across US

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Congress passes defense budget with cuts to troop benefits

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2 Americans killed in day of Taliban violence

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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you showed these pictures to people buying milk and eggs at Whole Foods, they'd be appalled."

— Mark Kastel, of Cornucopia Institute, discussing photos that appear to show farms breaking the rules on organic food

See story on Page 10

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## WAR/MILITARY

# 2 US troops killed in Taliban attacks

By LYNNE O'DONNELL  
AND AMIR SHAH  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three separate Taliban attacks killed at least 21 people in Afghanistan on Friday and Saturday, including two U.S. troops, a senior judicial official and personnel working to clear one of the most heavily mined regions of the world.

The attacks came amid a spike in violence just weeks before the international military mission in Afghanistan comes to an end on Dec. 31, 13 years after the 9/11 attacks sparked a U.S.-led invasion to rid Afghanistan of the Taliban's extremist regime.

As the Taliban insurgency vows to maintain its current campaign against government, military and foreign targets, the attacks have sparked tight security in Kabul and concerns among Afghans that the situation can only worsen after foreign forces transition to a supporting role starting Jan. 1.

The U.S. and NATO will leave about 13,000 troops in the country, with sliding reductions dur-

ing the coming two years. With the end of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, the residual troops are meant to offer training and support to Afghan security forces that have been leading the anti-insurgency fight while suffering record casualties since the middle of last year.

President Ashraf Ghani made it clear during recent overseas trips that he believes Afghanistan needs ongoing financial and military support as the insurgency intensifies and spreads.

"We are not yet able to do everything alone. Your continued support will, therefore, be key in ensuring that our collective gains of the 13 years will be enduring," Ghani told NATO foreign ministers in Brussels earlier this month.

U.S. President Barack Obama's decision to extend the mission of the U.S. troops remaining in the Afghanistan, allowing them to conduct anti-terrorist operations against the Taliban as well as al-Qaida, and to provide combat support as necessary, also tacitly acknowledges the security chal-

lenges the country faces.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the Saturday attacks, as well as one late Friday in which two American soldiers were killed, according to an international military official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the information wasn't authorized for release. The soldiers died when a suicide bomber targeted their convoy near the Bagram air base outside Kabul in Parwan province.

Their deaths brought to 65 the total number of international troops killed in Afghanistan this year, 50 of them Americans. Some 3,500 foreign forces, including at least 2,210 American soldiers, have been killed since the war began in 2001. By comparison, Afghan security casualties spiked 6.5 percent this year, with 4,634 killed in action by the end of September.

Maj. Gen. Afzal Aman, chief of operations at the Defense Ministry, said that six Afghan soldiers died when a suicide bomber attacked a bus taking them home

late Saturday afternoon.

He said the attack most likely was carried out by a suicide bomber on foot. Eyewitnesses said the bus was totally destroyed by fire.

Hashmat Stanekzai, a spokesman for the Kabul police, said a total of 18 people were wounded, including soldiers and civilians.

Early Saturday, gunmen shot dead Atiqullah Rawoofi, the head of the court's secretariat in Kabul's northwestern suburbs, said Farid Afzali, chief of the Kabul police criminal investigation unit. Rawoofi was walking from his home to his car on his way to work when he was shot dead by militants, he said.

Hours later, Taliban fighters shot dead at least 12 workers clearing mines in southern Afghanistan, authorities said.

The attack targeting the mine-clearing operation struck southern Helmand province between its Nad Ali and Washir districts, police spokesman Farid Ahmad Obaid said. He said Taliban militants killed at least 12 workers and wounded another 12.

## Iraqi Christians celebrate holiday as refugees

By JAD SLEIMAN  
Stars and Stripes

IRBIL, Iraq — As Christmas approaches, religious leaders and officials running a camp for Iraqi Christians who fled advances by Islamic State militants are working to instill some holiday cheer for those spending their first Christmas away from their homes.

An estimated 100,000 Iraqi Christians have sought refuge in and around Irbil, capital of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region in northern Iraq.

Father Daniel al-Khory fled al-Qaida militants in Baghdad in 2006 before setting up shop in Irbil's Mar Illea Church. The refugees began pouring in in August.

When the first Christians from Qaraqosh — once the largest Christian city in Iraq — arrived, they had to sleep on the dirt ground surrounding al-Khory's church. Now, nearly six months after Islamic State militants swept into Iraq from Syria, conquering large swathes of territory, the refugees have tents to sleep in and evening events for their children.

The activities lately have centered on Christmas. "The kids would come in with all this trauma from what they had seen and how they escaped, and they'd be violent," al-Khory said. "So now we have these programs in the evening to release all that negativity. The psychological side of care is very important."



JAD SLEIMAN/Stars and Stripes

A woman and her child watch evening prayers at the Iraqi Christian refugee camp surrounding Mar Illea Church in Irbil on Friday. They are among more than 100,000 Christians seeking refuge in the capital of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region in northern Iraq. For additional photos, go to [stripes.com/go/irbilchristmas](http://stripes.com/go/irbilchristmas).

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STARS AND STRIPES

## MILITARY



**Above:** Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ryan Anderson tells his sons Nathan, left, and Connor about the veteran on whose Arlington grave they are about to place a wreath. Behind them is the boys' mom, Amy.

**Below:** Dennis Coster Jr. says a prayer before placing a wreath on a grave at Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday.



**Above:** A woman places a wreath on a grave during the Wreaths Across America event at Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday. Thousands of volunteers turned out to lay more than 200,000 wreaths.

**Left:** Adm. James A. Winnefeld Jr., vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, hands out wreaths to volunteers.

PHOTOS BY JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

# 'A great gift'

## Veterans honored with wreaths at cemeteries across America

BY CARLOS BONGIOANNI  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Kathy Dillaber, who survived the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon that killed her sister helped hang the first of 184 wreaths placed in memory of those who died there that day.

The ceremony Friday at the Pentagon Memorial was the first of several planned across the country and overseas as part of Wreaths Across America. On Saturday, thousands of volunteers turned out to lay more than 200,000 wreaths on graves at Arlington National Cemetery.

"I was fortunate that I was able to get out of the building. Too many good people didn't," said Dillaber, a retired Army civilian who recalled how her "baby sister," Patty Mickley, another DOD civilian, as well as 24 coworkers from her Army personnel office died when a hijacked plane was flown into the building.

Dillaber, who now volunteers as a docent at the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, said her duties

of explaining to visitors the significance of the attacks helps her come to terms with the tragedy. It gives her the opportunity to regularly honor her family, both her "blood family and work family that are no longer here," she said.

Joining Dillaber in hanging the first wreath were Wreaths Across America founder Morrill Worcester and Jim Laychak, president of the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial Fund.

Laychak, praised Wreaths Across America for giving "a great gift" to the families of those who died in the attacks 13 years ago. His brother, David Laychak, an Army civilian, was among them.

"That gift is not forgetting our loved ones and helping others never to forget what happened," Laychak said.

During Friday's ceremony, Katherine Hammack, the assistant secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, talked of the picture that hangs on the wall of her office on the third floor on the E ring

where the plane hit. The picture of a huge black hole reminds her every day what her office building looked like after the attack.

"We will not forget the profound loss of the 59 people on that plane or the 125 who were in the Pentagon," Hammack said, "our colleagues whose lives were cut short that day."

On Saturday, Gov. Paul LePage and his wife, Ann, led a large contingent of Maine residents to Arlington for the wreath-laying event.

"Their mission statement — to remember the fallen, honor those that served and teach our children — really is my driving force to do what I do for our military servicemembers in Maine," said Ann LePage. "I think that in just about every speech that I give in Maine I've said something about Wreaths Across America. I just believe in it so much, and I think it's so good for this country."

Ann LePage again made the trip from Maine on a three-wheeled motorcycle.

"We come down every year," said the governor, adding that, "I



Servicemembers join civilian volunteers in placing wreaths on a fence at the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial in Arlington, Va., on Friday as part of the Wreaths Across America event.

take the more traditional way to get down here."

The honoring of those buried at Arlington with holiday wreaths from Maine dates back to 1992, when Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine, found itself with a surplus of wreaths. Morrill Worcester, the owner, donated the wreaths to Arlington and then decided to keep doing it. The practice continued quietly for 14 years, until word of the venture spread, drawing the interest of others

who wanted to participate.

In 2006, the company began getting requests to lay wreaths at sites all over the country. The size and scope of the holiday project became so large that the Worcesters in 2007 formed the Wreaths Across America nonprofit. By 2010, the organization, along with a host of volunteers, laid more than 220,000 wreaths at 545 locations in the United States and overseas.

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# WAR ON TERRORISM

## Mosul: Peshmerga say Islamic State militants are weakening 'day by day'

### FROM FRONT PAGE

At the front, the peshmerga men now face harassing tactics eerily reminiscent of the waning insurgency Americans faced in the final years of their Iraqi occupation.

Although the hundreds of U.S. airstrikes since August have stopped the militants' advance, the Iraqi army and its Kurdish allies so far have succeeded in retaking only slivers of occupied territory. The front line now meanders across much of northern Iraq, stretching for hundreds of miles from the Syrian border to an area west of the capital Baghdad.

"We as peshmerga are very strong, while day by day ISIS gets weaker," said Latif Razbedi, using another name for the Islamic State. He spoke at the final peshmerga checkpoint between Irbil and Mosul. "In the day they hide from American planes, and even after dark they can't show themselves."

To the Kurdish fighters here, the once-vaunted power of the Islamic State has been reduced to taking potshots from afar and the occasional rocket-propelled grenade fired hastily in the night. They no longer fear a deluge of well-armed, fanatical Islamic militants sweeping through their lines across the front line.

The highway behind them, however, still bears the evidence of the shock of the groups' stunning summer advance, as well as the toll they paid when they were repulsed by Western air power and a rallied peshmerga.

The Islamic State's footprint starts near the outskirts of the Kurdish capital — the militants were once less than 30 miles from Irbil. There, refugees mill about among skeletal, concrete structures that were supposed to be completed apartment buildings by now.

Closer to Mosul, the peshmerga checkpoints become more and more frequent. Dozens of cars left behind by fleeing Iraqis gather dust on a field beside the road.

In August, peshmerga forces told the 5,000 refugees at the Khazir refugee camp, located several miles behind the current front, that they could no longer protect them in the face of the Islamic State's unrelenting advance.

The camp was closed and is today a sprawling square of rubbish abandoned in the haste of the evacuation.

But the peshmerga returned in force in October, pushing the Islamic State fighters back with the aid of coalition airstrikes that started that month.



PHOTOS BY JAD SLEIMAN/Stars and Stripes

**Peshmerga fighters watch the front Dec. 8 at the edge of the highway connecting the Iraqi cities of Irbil and Mosul. The Islamic State fighters are less than a mile away from their position.**

"We stayed up that night and came down from the mountains and chased them away," said Adham Omer, a senior fighter. "Boom, bang, everywhere explosions. We loved it."

Past the debris of the former refugee camp, rusting hulks of vehicles that once bore the black flag of the Islamic State still dot the landscape. Western air power decimated Islamic State convoys and heavy weapons, peshmerga say.

"If it moves, we can blow it up," said a peshmerga officer in charge of calling in the airstrikes. He declined to give his name for security reasons but said he had been trained by Americans years earlier and helped fight the Iraqi insurgency after the 2003 invasion. "We get intelligence or we actually see them moving and we use GPS to target them."

Just before the final Kurdish positions are the bullet-ridden homes occupied progressively by civilians, the Islamic State and now the peshmerga. The oldest graffiti, which reads "Yes, yes, for Saddam," was crossed out and replaced by "Islamic State," which in turn was replaced by "Good luck peshmerga."

In one house, a peshmerga fighter tied his scarf over his face. The smell of rot was overwhelm-



**A bridge over the Khazir River along the highway connecting Irbil and Mosul was destroyed by Islamic State fighters as they withdrew in the face of Western airstrikes and peshmerga forces.**

ing. In the main foyer, a pool of human blood had gelled solid.

The fighters said they removed a headless body but have no idea who the victim was.

The peshmerga at the front

recognize that the force down the highway is still formidable, if diminished. And they still find themselves outgunned.

Outside their headquarters, a handful of Humvees — provided

by France — flew the Kurdish flag and sported new 50-caliber machine guns. But most of the fighters carried aging Kalashnikov rifles and complained that they didn't have the heavy weaponry to punch through the U.S.-made armored vehicles that Islamic State forces plundered from Mosul's Iraqi Army bases.

Although Islamic State forces are unlikely to threaten Irbil again, it remains unclear exactly who will evict them from Mosul.

"Kurdistan will stay under threat if ISIS will stay in Mosul. In other words, the target for the time being must be Mosul," Fuad Hussein, chief of staff to Kurdistan President Massoud Barzani, said in October.

Since then, officials of Iraq's regional Kurdish government have been more reluctant to publicly commit to a joint Iraqi-Kurdish action on the city.

Lt. Col. Mohammad Harki, who commands the peshmerga battalion manning the front line at the edge of the highway, said he was certain ISIS wouldn't make it past their lines. But he couldn't tell when or whether his men would march on Mosul.

"Politics," he said, shrugging. "We don't know."

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# WAR ON TERRORISM



PHOTOS BY JAD SLEIMAN/Stars and Stripes

An Iraqi soldier points out Islamic State fighting positions in northern Iraq. His unit is separated from the Islamic State group militants by a damaged bridge spanning a river valley.

## Iraqi helo shot down by militants

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Islamic State group militants shot down an Iraqi military helicopter, officials said Saturday, killing the two pilots on board and raising fresh concerns about the extremists' ability to attack aircraft amid ongoing U.S.-led coalition airstrikes.

The attack happened late Friday in the Shiite holy city of Samarra, about 60 miles north of Baghdad. A senior Defense Ministry official told The Associated Press the Sunni militants used a shoulder-fired rocket launcher to shoot down the EC635 helicopter on the outskirts of the city.

An army official corroborated the information. Both spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to speak to journalists.

The EC635, built by Airbus Helicopters, is used for transportation, surveillance and combat. The militants shot down at least two other Iraqi military helicopters near Beiji in October. Some fear the militants may have captured ground-to-air missiles capable of shooting down airplanes when they overrun Iraqi and Syrian army bases this summer.

European airlines including Virgin Atlantic, KLM and Air France, U.S. carrier Delta Air Lines and Dubai-based Emirates changed their commercial flight plans over the summer to avoid Iraqi airspace.

The Islamic State group holds about a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria in its self-styled caliphate.

In Syria, meanwhile, an activist group and a jihadi website said the Islamic State group's police force beheaded four men in the central province of Homs for insulting God.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the four were beheaded Friday in the province's east, without elaborating.

A jihadi website said the "Islamic police in the state of Homs" carried out a court sentence against the four in the presence of onlookers. Grist photos posted on the website showed each of the four blindfolded men kneeling, their hands tied behind their backs, as a masked man in a black uniform hit their necks with a cleaver.

The Islamic State group governs its territory according to its radical, violent interpretation of Shariah. It has carried out other mass killings and beheadings, often recorded and posted online.

# 'We are men. Men fight'

Iraq battalion was sole group to stand up to Islamic State summer surge

By JAD SLEIMAN  
Stars and Stripes

GWER, Iraq — Two entire divisions — more than 30,000 soldiers — along with Mosul's entire police force disintegrated and fled from Iraq's second-largest city and the surrounding area in June when faced with the Islamic State's lightning advance across much of northern Iraq.

Only one battalion of the once-formidable 2nd Division stood its ground amid the sudden collapse of Iraq's security forces in Mosul and Nineveh province.

Months later, nearly 2,000 of unit's soldiers held the eastern half of Gwer, 30 miles southeast of the city. They wear Iraqi patches on their shoulders and carry American-made automatic rifles in compounds topped by the flag of the autonomous Kurdish Regional Government.

A heavily damaged two-lane bridge over the Great Zab river stands between them and the Islamic State positions on the far side.

"Before we saw ISIS we saw the refugees," Capt. Ahmad Mansour Abdullah said, describing the events of this summer. He used an alternative name for the Islamic State. "Then we saw the army and the police, all leaving



An Iraqi soldier peers out of a fighting position toward Islamic State territory in northern Iraq last week. His battalion Mosul-area Iraq unit stood its ground against the militants' summer blitzkrieg.

Mosul."

Parts of the Iraqi security forces abandoned the city on orders from Baghdad, falling back to protect the capital as well as Tikrit. But many troops simply stripped off their uniforms and vanished. The result was a city of more than 3 million Iraqis under the control of the militants and vast armories full of American-supplied equipment plundered.

Fewer than 1,000 ISIS fighters are thought to have been involved in the initial occupation of Mosul. Years of command mismanagement and a Sunni population resentful of the Shiite-controlled government of former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki had left the Iraqi army extremely vulnerable.

After the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, American administrators abolished the old Iraqi

armed forces and decided to rebuild the military from scratch. Although the new army was considered fully operational at the time of the U.S. withdrawal in 2011, many of its units simply disappeared when confronted by the fast-moving and highly motivated insurgents.

By the time the irregulars made it to the Iraqi lines at Gwer in September, their group had morphed into the Islamic State, bolstered by a steady flow of foreign recruits and the latest in captured Western weaponry. "Everything from the M16 up, they had," said Abdullah. This included artillery, heavy machine guns and armored vehicles, he said.

The Iraqis were initially pushed several miles back from their position on the river. "We had good training, we had

learned to fight," said Sgt. Dlawar Said, who joined the post-Saddam Iraqi army the Americans began building in 2003 and who still wears a U.S. Army T-shirt. "We just had to regroup and catch up."

Backed by peshmarga forces and Western airstrikes, they managed to throw the Islamic State insurgents back across the river to the eastern bank. The militants blew up the midsection of the bridge as they retreated.

The greatest dangers now come from mortars and sniper fire, the soldiers said. The men must sprint when they move across the roofs of some of their compounds to minimize their exposure.

But they don't fear the Islamic State overruning their position anymore.

"ISIS has become weak; the Americans used to strike every day," Said said.

Said returns to the subject of the fleeing Iraqi soldiers when he's interrupted by other men from his unit gathered nearby.

"We are men," one of them said. "Men fight."

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# WAR ON TERRORISM

## Progress: Tracking anti-Islamic State fight hard for journalists, lawmakers

### FROM FRONT PAGE

In previous, recent wars, the military offered either regular updates or a chance for reporters to embed with troops to see the conflict for themselves. But with the war primarily an air campaign or involving famously secretive special operators, that access isn't available.

There are no extra seats on the fighter jets for reporters, and the furtive special forces now training Iraqi troops aren't allowing journalists to join them.

While the U.S. military has discussed embedding reporters, as it did during the invasion of Iraq in 2003, it's unclear how such an embedding would work with no major troop presence in Iraq and none in Syria. The Iraqi military, which is reputed to be leading the fight, has shown no interest in allowing foreign reporters access to its forces.

It's not just journalists, however, who report difficulty gaining a picture of what's going on in the conflict. In Congress, legislators who receive classified hearings on the U.S. effort said they, too, didn't get definitive details on the effects of the air-and-ground campaign.

During classified briefings for the House Armed Services Committee, the U.S. military "goes through the number of strikes and where they hit, but that doesn't give you an idea of what the effects are," Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., told McClatchy. Hunter acknowledged that many members aren't pushing for more conclusive answers. "You can't manage a war from Congress," he said.

### Interests and strategy

Lawrence Korb, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a research center in Washington, suggested that one reason for the lack of information may be the strange alliances that have emerged in the battle against the Islamic State; the Obama administration may not want to draw attention to what Korb called "competing interests."

"The U.S. is working with the Iranians in Iraq. You've got the Shiite militias in control until the Iraqi army is standing. And, of course, in Syria you have our so-called Mideast allies and the U.S. in some ways helping Bashar Assad. I think that is the reason you don't see as much information coming to the forefront," he said.

Pentagon officials privately concede that they could release more, and more timely, information. But the problem, they say, ultimately is a lack of a strategy. President Barack Obama said in a White House address Sept. 10 that the goal was to "defeat and destroy" the Islamic State, but the military approach so far is more of a containment policy. Releasing more details about the strikes would expose that divide, critics said privately.

Lauren Squires, a counterterrorism analyst at the Institute for the Study of War, which tracks the anti-Islamic State campaign, said the delay and the lack of specific-



PROVIDED BY CENTCOM/AP

This image from video released Wednesday shows an airstrike against an Islamic State group truck on Nov. 29 near Ar Raqqa, Syria. Brett McGurk, deputy special presidential envoy to the coalition to counter the group, said U.S. and partner nations have conducted more than 500 airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Syria.

**'If we provide those kind of operational details, over time our adversaries can aggregate information and do trend analysis.'**

Col. Patrick Ryder  
Central Command spokesman

ity from the Pentagon had consequences. The cost of less detail is that the American public is lulled into a false sense that not much is happening.

"There is a false sense of distance. Unless there are embedded reporters, there is a distance and less understanding how ubiquitous this group can be," Squires said, referring to the Islamic State. "Just because we ignore it doesn't mean the threat will go away."

The conflicted nature of the strategy was on display earlier this week on Capitol Hill, where Secretary of State John Kerry told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that legislators shouldn't restrict Obama's ability to dispatch ground troops to destroy the Islamic State even as he emphasized that the president has said U.S. military forces "will not be deployed to conduct ground combat operations" against the group.

"That does not mean we should preemptively bind the hands of the commander in chief — or our commanders in the field — in responding to scenarios and contingencies that are impossible to foresee," Kerry said.

### Prior conflicts

The lack of official information stands in stark contrast to what happened in previous wars in Iraq. During the Persian Gulf War, to push Iraqi troops out of Kuwait,

Army Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf Jr. became a household name for his frequent televised briefings. The then-head of U.S. Central Command stood next to easels displaying maps to explain the offensive, and he provided animated narrations of video showing the destruction of Iraqi positions with smart bombs.

During the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, that role fell to Gen. Vincent Brooks, who was the Army's deputy director of operations at the time and provided daily televised briefings from Qatar. In addition, the military embedded hundreds of reporters and photographers with the invading forces. In Washington, then-Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld briefed weekly from the Pentagon.

In both of those conflicts, as well as the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan, reporters could travel independently to report on the impact of American military operations. But with Western journalists targeted for kidnapping and

death by the Islamic State, it's become nearly impossible for them to cover the conflict in Iraq safely, and most news organizations quit sending people to Syria long ago.

At Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Fla., officials say they're trying to be as transparent as possible. But they say full transparency is impossible in explaining the actions not just of American forces, but also those of the more than 60 nations the U.S. says are part of the anti-Islamic State coalition.

Many of those 60 members aren't eager to boast about their roles, said Air Force Col. Patrick Ryder, a Central Command spokesman. That's one reason Central Command no longer announces when non-U.S. aircraft take part in a mission, something it did routinely in August and September.

"It has been our policy and our intent to be as transparent as possible, recognizing we have to protect operational security and take partner-nation sensitivity into ac-

count," Ryder said. "Just because we don't put it in the news release doesn't mean we don't tell reporters" who call and ask for more details.

### Information security

The military also has stopped providing details about the days and times of strikes and their targets. Ryder said the military made the change, after several weeks of including such information, for fear that the releases might become a source of intelligence for the Islamic State. "If we provide those kind of operational details, over time our adversaries can aggregate information and do trend analysis," he said.

Ryder said the reduction in the frequency of airstrike summaries from daily to three times per week last month was in part a response to staffing shortages. He defended the less-frequent releases by noting that daily airstrike reports historically are unusual. They seem important now only because there are no ground forces involved in the fighting. Previously, an air campaign and special operations were considered support for a larger ground force, not the main event of a conflict.

Last week, the military changed responsibility for producing news releases on operations from Central Command to the Combined Joint Task Force, based in the Middle East. Ryder acknowledged that the new releases lack any specifics that could be used to track the progress of the war.

A release from Dec. 5 is typical of what the military now makes public about the anti-Islamic State campaign: In Syria, over a three-day period "U.S. and partner nations" conducted "14 airstrikes near Kobani, destroying four ISIL fighting positions, three ISIL-occupied buildings, two ISIL staging areas, two ISIL tanks, a motorcycle, and a mortar, and struck eight tactical ISIL units and two ISIL fighting positions. Near ... Raqqa, an airstrike struck an electronic warfare garrison." ISIL is the government's preferred acronym for the Islamic State.

Compare that with a more detailed November news release from the United Kingdom describing its air force's activities over Iraq.

"On Thursday evening, Kurdish peshmarga reported coming under fire from a dug-in machine-gun position," the release read. "An RAF (Royal Air Force) Reaper remotely piloted air system succeeded in locating the ISIL position, and attacked it with a Hellfire missile. The crew operating the Reaper then identified further ISIL positions, allowing another coalition aircraft to coin attack. Before the end of its patrol the Reaper crew used another Hellfire to engage an ISIL checkpoint set up to control a road."

On Monday, in an apparent effort to be more transparent, Central Command released aerial video of airstrikes conducted two weeks ago. But again, there were few details about the times and purposes of the strikes.



## NATION

# Congress OKs defense bill

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Congress approved a defense authorization bill Friday, setting priorities for the military and clearing the way for cuts to troop benefits next year.

The bill passed a final 89-11 vote in the Senate and lays out plans for military personnel, equipment such as the A-10 Thunderbolt aircraft and the war in Iraq and Syria. It sets the servicemember pay raise at 1 percent and tightens up housing allowances and Tricare pharmacy coverage as the Department of Defense grapples with mandatory caps on its spending in the coming years.

The cuts were requested by the Pentagon and White House and finally approved in the National Defense Authorization Act despite opposition in the House. Military brass had lobbied for deeper cuts but the bill takes some first steps toward what many in Congress believe will be years of reductions in personnel costs, unless lawmakers can strike a deal to lift the budget caps designed to deal with the national debt.

Congress on Friday was also debating a massive \$1.1 trillion omnibus appropriations bill that does out the money for the NDAA priorities. A Senate vote was expected by Saturday.

The NDAA calls for a \$495.5 billion base defense budget and \$63.7 billion for overseas military operations related to the war. Here are the key changes to benefits:

- Servicemembers have gotten 1.8 percent pay raises but the NDAA allows President Barack Obama to continue with a plan to reduce the increase to 1 percent.

- The military's basic housing allowance covers 100 percent of rental costs for troops and the bill brings that down to 99 percent. The Pentagon wants to slow inflation increases in the coming years until it pays only 95 percent of costs, with troops covering the

remaining amount.

- It will increase Tricare out-of-pocket costs for prescription medicines by \$3 per year, which puts off any decision of more copay increases after 2015 but still tracks with a Pentagon plan to increase troop contributions by \$30 over a decade.

Meanwhile, the bill offers some protections for the A-10, known as the Warthog, which is much loved by infantry troops but slated for retirement by the Air Force.

A group of senators including John McCain, R-Ariz., and Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., championed the aircraft and waged a campaign over the past six months to keep it flying. They say the A-10 is the most capable at close air support operations in war zones and that it saves American lives.

The \$495 billion NDAA blocks the retirement but allows the service to reduce maintain and flying time for dozens of Warthogs to save money.

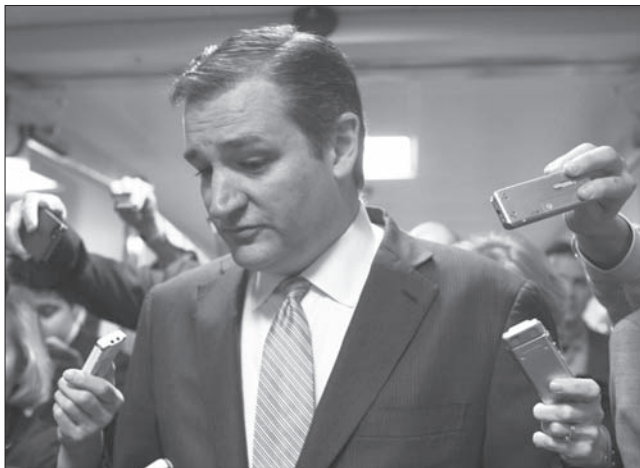
It also bars the Army from transferring Apache helicopters from the National Guard to its active-duty units, while allowing the Navy to spend \$450 million on EA-18G Growler aircraft and continuing buying three littoral combat ships.

The \$3.1 billion Overseas Contingency Operations portion of the bill increases funding for troops in Iraq, and greenlights an Obama administration plan to train and equip moderate Syrian rebels against the Islamic State.

The NDAA vote in the Senate came Friday despite some opposition from Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., who opposed public lands legislation that was tacked onto the bill and unrelated to national defense.

Coburn said the package of about 60 national park items, which sets aside vast new tracts of public land, could cost the federal government hundreds of millions per year. But his attempt to delay the NDAA and remove the items was rejected.

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LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE/AP

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, talks with reporters Friday on Capitol Hill in Washington as the Senate considers a spending bill.

## Senate GOP slows spending vote over immigration rider

By ANDREW TAYLOR  
*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — First it was objections by House Democrats that stood in the way of passage of a \$1.1 trillion catchall spending bill. Now it's the Senate Republicans' turn, specifically Ted Cruz of Texas and Mike Lee of Utah. The two lawmakers demanded a vote Friday night on a proposal to cut funds from the bill that could be used to implement President Barack Obama's new immigration policy, ending any chance the measure could clear the Senate and be sent to the White House with a minimum of fuss.

Officials in both parties said the bill remains on track for clearance by early next week. Even so, the move led Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., to abandon plans to adjourn the Senate for the weekend, and raised the possibility of a test vote on the spending bill shortly after midnight on Saturday.

Senate Republican leaders have pledged to challenge Obama's immigration policy early in the new year, after the GOP takes control of the Senate. But Cruz suggested they shouldn't be entirely trusted to keep their pledge.

"We will learn soon enough if those statements are genuine and sincere," he said, in a clear reference to Senate GOP Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker John Boehner.

Ironically, Cruz and Lee played a major role in events slightly more than a year ago that led to a partial government shutdown — an event McConnell, Boehner and most Republicans have vowed to avoid repeating. This time, Republican officials said they may have inadvertently given Reid an opening to win confirmation for several of Obama's nominees that might otherwise have languished.

With the end of the two-year Congress approaching, Reid is pressing to confirm about 20

Obama nominees to fill posts such as surgeon general, director of the Social Security Administration and federal judgeships.

The spending measure tops the remaining items on a quarrel-some Congress' agenda. Others include renewing tax breaks for individuals and businesses and a government program supporting the market for insurance against terrorist acts. In one bit of progress, the Senate sent Obama a sweeping defense policy measure by a big bipartisan vote.

Earlier Friday, the controversial spending package won a personal endorsement from Obama and was brought before the Senate.

Another provision loathed by many Democrats — though backed by the Democratic National Committee — raises the amount of money that wealthy donors may contribute to political parties for national conventions, election recounts and headquarters buildings.

## In Swiss interview, Justice Scalia weighs in on CIA interrogation tactics

*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia is joining the debate over the Senate's torture report by saying it's hard to rule out the use of extreme measures to extract information if millions of lives were threatened.

Scalia told a Swiss broadcast network that American and European liberals who say such tactics may never be used are being self-righteous.

The 78-year-old justice said he doesn't "think it's so clear at all," especially if interrogators were trying to find a ticking nuclear bomb. Scalia has made similar comments in the past, but he renewed his remarks on Wednesday in an interview with Radio Television Suisse, a day after the release of the Senate report detailing the CIA's harsh interrogation of suspected terrorists. RTS aired the interview on Friday.

"Listen, I think it's very facile for people to say, 'Oh, torture is

terrible.' You posit the situation where a person that you know for sure knows the location of a nuclear bomb that has been planted in Los Angeles and will kill millions of people. You think it's an easy question? You think it's clear that you cannot use extreme measures to get that information out of that person?" Scalia said.

Scalia also said that while there are U.S. laws against torture, nothing in the Constitution appears to prohibit harsh treatment of suspected terrorists. "I don't

know what article of the Constitution that would contravene," he said.

The 30-minute interview touched on a range of topics, including the financing of political campaigns, the death penalty and gay marriage, about which Scalia said he should not comment because it is likely the court soon will have the issue before it. Asked about money and U.S. elections, Scalia scoffed that "women may pay more each year to buy cosmetics" than is spent on

local, state and federal elections combined.

His comments about interrogation techniques echoed remarks he also has made to foreign audiences. In 2008, he used the example of the hidden bomb.

A year earlier, Canada's Globe and Mail newspaper reported that Scalia invoked fictional TV counterterrorism agent Jack Bauer using torture to get terrorism suspects to reveal information.

## NATION

# Protesters take message to Capitol

Thousands march in DC against police killings

By MATTHEW BARAKAT  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Thousands of protesters made their way down iconic Pennsylvania Avenue on Saturday, marching to the Capitol to call attention to the deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of police and call for legislative action.

With signs reading "Black Lives Matter" and "Who do you protect? Who do you serve," the crowd gathered in Freedom Plaza before the march.

"Let's keep it strong, long and meaningful," Essau Garner — the widow of Eric Garner, killed by an officer in New York City in July — told the group.

The rally was interrupted briefly by more than a dozen protesters who took the stage with a bullhorn. They announced that they were from St. Louis and Ferguson, Mo. — where 18-year-old Michael Brown was killed by an officer — and demanded to speak.

Large numbers of protesters on the ground supported the group, some chanting, "Let them speak."

Ultimately, rally organizers allowed Johnetta Elzie of St. Louis to address the crowd. The group, mostly in their 20s, left the stage after she spoke.

Organizers called the interruption unnecessarily divisive. But some in the Missouri group said they were disappointed and found the rally staid and ineffective.



Demonstrators chant at Freedom Plaza on Saturday in Washington during the Justice for All rally and march.

JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

"I thought there was going to be actions, not a show. This is a show," Elzie said.

The Rev. Al Sharpton addressed the interruption and told the crowd, "Don't let no provocateurs get you out of line. ... We are not here to play big shot. We are here to win."

Then, block after block of tightly packed people moved through the city. Organizers had predicted 5,000 people, but the crowd appeared to far outnumber that.

Protests — some violent — have occurred around the nation since grand juries last month declined to indict the officers involved in

the deaths of Brown and Garner, 43, who gasped "I can't breathe" while being arrested for allegedly selling loose, untaxed cigarettes in New York. Some protesters held signs and wore shirts that said "I can't breathe" Saturday.

Politicians and others have talked about the need for better police training, body cameras and changes in the grand jury process to restore faith in the legal system.

Terry Baisden, 52, of Baltimore said she is "hopeful change is coming" and that the movement is not part of a fleeting flash

of anger.

She said she hasn't protested before but felt compelled to because "changes in action, changes in belief, happen in numbers."

Shercy Holloway, a recent graduate from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, attended a smaller gathering outside Robert F. Kennedy Stadium in Washington ahead of the main rally. She said she also has been participating in protests at her alma mater.

Holloway said the goal of the protests is "ending blue-on-black crime. Black lives do matter."

## Suspect in shooting near school arrested

PORTLAND, Ore. — A suspect in a shooting that wounded three students outside an alternative high school in what appears to be a gang-related attack was arrested early Saturday, Portland police said.

Witnesses told authorities there may have been a dispute Friday outside Rosemary Anderson High School just before the shooting occurred at a street corner. The victims are students or are in affiliated job-training programs.

The assailant and two other people fled, and the injured trio went to the school for help, police said. A 16-year-old girl was critically wounded, and a 17-year-old boy and a 20-year-old man were hospitalized in fair condition. Another girl was grazed by a bullet.

A student, Olivanni Danley, 16, told The Oregonian she saw a boy run into the school and yell, "Oh my God, did I just get shot?"

Hours later, authorities said they stopped the suspect's vehicle about 1:30 a.m. and arrested a 22-year-old man. A handgun was found in the vehicle.

## FBI reviews hanging death of black teenager

BLADENBORO, N.C. — The black teenager was found in a North Carolina trailer park, hanging from a swing set by a dog leash and a belt that were not his own. His mother said he showed no signs of suicidal thoughts, yet authorities quickly ruled that he had taken his own life.

Now the FBI is reviewing the investigation after Lennan Lacy's relatives and the NAACP raised doubts about the official findings, which the county coroner also questioned.

A 911 caller reported spotting the 17-year-old's body Aug. 29 in Bladenboro, about 100 miles south of Raleigh. His feet were suspended 2 inches off the ground.

The state medical examiner ruled that the boy killed himself, but his mother said she does not believe it.

"When I saw him, I just knew automatically he didn't do that to himself," Claudia Lacy told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "If he was going to harm himself, his demeanor would have changed. His whole routine, everything, his attitude, everything would have changed."

## 'Yes Means Yes' is new norm on NY campuses

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Administrative policy may be the new pillow talk on college campuses across New York.

A universal "affirmative consent" standard is now part of a sexual assault prevention policy adopted across the state's public university system, spelling out for students that only "yes" — not silence or a lack of resistance — is the cue for sexual activity.

The so-called "Yes Means Yes" standard could spread to private campuses next year by way of legislation favored by Gov. Andrew Cuomo as states race to ensure to improve their handling of campus sexual assaults.

From The Associated Press

# Storm-driven mud, rocks mire S. Calif. homes

By RAQUEL MARIA DILLON  
The Associated Press

CAMARILLO, Calif. — Mountainsides stripped bare by a wild-fire last year belched a damaging debris flow into a Southern California community during a downpour from a major Pacific storm early Friday.

Rocks, boulders and mud swept downhill by runoff piled up to the eaves of homes in Camarillo Springs, a community surrounding a golf course 50 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

An earth mover that had been brought in ahead of the storm to clear debris was buried as well, with just its big, mechanical arm left sticking up out of the muck.

"It's \$200,000 (of equipment) sitting under there," said heavy equipment mechanic Tony Morris. "It was good at 11:30 when I left last night."

Ten homes were red-tagged, indicating they were uninhabitable and off-limits, according to the Ventura County Fire Department.



RAQUEL MARIA DILLON/AP

Earth-moving equipment is buried by a debris flow Friday in Camarillo Springs, Calif., about 50 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

Three homes were yellow-tagged, meaning they were uninhabitable but residents could enter to retrieve items. Another three had lesser damage.

The rocks and roots pushed into bedrooms, straight on through to

the living room, cracking front windows.

"It's amazing how much rock actually slid down the hill," said sheriff's Capt. Don Aguilar.

Former Republican Rep. Elton Gallegly told KCAL-TV his house

was destroyed by the debris flow.

"I don't know if there's anything salvagable," he said.

The neighborhood's trouble was rooted in a fire that erupted nearby along U.S. 101 on May 2, 2013, as a dry and gusty Santa Ana wind pushed back moist breezes from the nearby ocean, sent humidity plunging to withering levels and fanned flames across the west end of the Santa Monica Mountains.

About 2,000 homes were threatened by flames and 15 sustained damage, but none was destroyed. When it was over, the fire had burned to the beach at Point Mugu and 44 square miles of rugged terrain were left devoid of protective vegetation.

Ted and Rita Elliot placed 400 sandbags around the back of their Camarillo Springs home and it was spared. On Friday, they stood in their backyard looking at destruction near door.

"Wow, we are lucky!" said Ted. "We'll be the only house on the block," said Rita.



## NATION

# Sale of brewer to Bud maker provokes furor

By JEFF BARNARD  
The Associated Press

BEND, Ore. — The acquisition of an Oregon craft brewery by the world's largest brewer has provoked a furor in a trendy town where people take pride in their local beer.

The Facebook page 10 Barrel Brewing lit up with condemnations: Loyal beer drinkers said the brewers were greedy "sellouts." Some fans threatened to boycott the brand. One declared he would stop wearing a T-shirt promoting the beer.

The uproar erupted after the brewer announced last month that it was being bought by Anheuser-Busch InBev, which to the horror of craft-beer enthusiasts, makes Budweiser and Bud Light.

The acquisition was another example of megabrewers trying to counter declining sales by tapping into the growth of small craft breweries. And it drew the ire of devoted customers who blasted the corporation as an enemy of the craft beer industry and "the worst guys in the game."

People in and around Bend take their beer seriously. Since its first craft brewery opened in 1988, this northwestern city of 80,000 has grown from a struggling timber town to a trendy destination featuring skiing, golf, fly fishing and mountain biking, all of which can

be capped off at the end of the day with a fine, locally brewed craft beer.

The city and the surrounding area now claim nearly 30 breweries, many with owners looking for fulfillment in the beer, not the bottom line.

The owners of 10 Barrel, twin brothers Chris and Jeremy Cox and Garrett Wales, say Anheuser-Busch was already handling their distribution. The idea of selling their operation came up over a few beers.

They promise nothing will change.

"We are really good at some things, like brewing cool beer and having fun," Chris Cox said. "Other things, businesswise, we are not so great at. So it's going to be a great partnership."

Terms of the deal have not yet been disclosed.

Along with the criticism, the brewery's Facebook page also offered sincere congratulations from fans happy to see a local institution strike a lucrative deal.

While nationwide beer sales declined 1.9 percent last year, craft beer sales rose 17.2 percent, according to the Brewers Association, which represents craft brewers. The industry's two giants, Anheuser-Busch and Miller-Coors, have lost a total 20 million barrels in sales since 2008, said Bart Watson, an economist for the group.



PHOTOS BY JEFF BARNARD/AP

Brewer Joe Jasper tends to a vat at Deschutes Brewery in Bend, Ore.



10 Barrel Brewing Co. partner Garrett Wales poses in the company's brewery in Bend, Ore.

Anheuser-Busch craft beer CEO Andy Goeller said the company wants 10 Barrel to "continue to do more of what they are doing" and praised the brewery's "amazing portfolio of beers."

Other brewers are wary, espe-

**'It's going to be a great partnership.'**

Chris Cox  
co-owner, 10 Barrel Brewing

cially in Oregon, which has 181 breweries and where craft beer accounts for 40 percent of beer consumed — tops in the nation. They're especially leery in Bend, where the town's beer-themed creation story is recited by native and newcomer alike.

Located in sunny central Oregon and framed by the snow-capped Cascade Range, Bend was laid low in the 1980s by logging cutbacks to protect the northern spotted owl and salmon.

Gary Fish was a California restaurateur looking for a new cool place and landed in Bend. He opened a brew pub in 1988 that quickly became the after-fun place of choice. It evolved into Deschutes Brewery, Bend's biggest, producing more than 300,000 bar-

rels of beer in two dozen varieties. It distributes coast to coast.

10 Barrel started out with a bar on the outskirts of downtown. In 2006, its owners started a small brewery under the motto: "Brew beer, drink beer and have fun doing it!"

Their beers became a hit, and their new brewery produces 42,000 barrels sold in Oregon, Idaho and Washington state. Their pub on the trendy West Side of Bend turned into one of the hottest spots in town, where people wait 90 minutes for a chance to sit at the bar watching the snow gently falling through an open garage door behind the bartender. They also have a pub in Boise, Idaho, and another opening in Portland's hip Pearl District.

## Number of humpback whales increases in waters near NYC

By JIM FITZGERALD  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Maybe they want to sing on Broadway.

Humpback whales, the gigantic, endangered mammals known for their haunting underwater songs, have been approaching New York City in greater numbers than even old salts can remember.

Naturalists aboard whale-watching boats have seen humpbacks in the Atlantic Ocean within a mile of the Rockaway peninsula, part of New York's borough of Queens, within sight of Manhattan's skyscrapers.

"It is truly remarkable, within miles of the Empire State Building, to have one of the largest and most charismatic species ever to be on this planet," said Howard Rosenbaum, director of the Ocean Giants program at the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Humpbacks were spotted 87 times from the boats this year,



JULIE LARSEN MAHER, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY/AP

**A humpback whale breaks the water's surface through a school of fish 6 miles off the coast of New York City in August.**

and by cataloging the whales' markings, at least 19 different humpbacks have been identified in the waters off the city.

Paul Sieswerda, founder of Gotham Whale, which documents the marine mammal population around New York, said reports

of humpbacks in the New York Bight, where the city's harbor meets the Atlantic, began to pick up in about 2010 from surprised fishermen and other veterans on the water. Gotham Whale then partnered with the American Princess whale-watching boat, providing naturalists who could document the sightings.

The naturalists also do an educational presentation on the boat and answer customers' questions, said Tom Paladino, the boat's captain.

"It was pretty slim pickings at first, actually," Sieswerda said. "We went on many cruises and had three sightings totaling five whales in 2011."

But in 2012, there were 15 sightings; in 2013, 33; and this year, there were 87 sightings totaling 106 humpbacks.

Many whales were sighted more than once. But by comparing flukes — the distinctive shapes and markings of their tails

— 19 different humpbacks have been documented near the city so far. Customers on the whale-watching tours are asked to share any photos they get of such markings for the "New York City Humpback Whale Catalog."

"This is the way they've been doing it in Maine and Massachusetts, the recognized way to keep track of these whales, study their behavior," Sieswerda said.

It's not crystal clear why humpbacks, which can be 50 feet long and weigh 40 tons, are returning to New York's shores, where they were abundant before they and other whale species were nearly destroyed by whaling.

Rosenbaum said the humpbacks' reappearance could be simply a shift in their habits rather than a spike in population. A greater abundance of menhaden, one of the humpbacks' favorite foods, could have attracted them from farther out in the ocean.

## NATION

## American lives valued at \$6M less in nuclear meltdown

Bloomberg News

VIENNA — If you wrap your new car around a tree beside the interstate, the U.S. government values your life at \$9 million. If you're at risk from a nuclear accident, you're priced at just \$3 million.

Those are the figures the U.S. Transportation Department and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission use when considering safety upgrades for highways or nuclear power plants. Their methods compare the cost of improvements with the number of lives potentially saved. The gap between the value they give to each life shows the scale of the task facing officials trying to broker a deal to improve nuclear safety around the world.

The NRC has been reviewing its statistical model since August 2012, as the European Union heaps pressure on the U.S. to agree to tighter regulations on reactor safety. The theoretical value of a human life is a key part of the U.S. rulebook, which effectively caps how much power companies can be forced to spend on safety upgrades.

"Using this low value has a significant effect on nuclear plant license renewals and new reactor approvals," said Ed Lyman, a Washington-based physicist at the Union of Concerned Scientists. "Nuclear plants are not required to add safety systems that the NRC deems too expensive for the value of the lives they could save."

The U.S. was left as the main dissenter in negotiations over tighter international rules on nuclear safety this month as Russia scaled back its opposition to plans intended to avoid a repeat of Japan's 2011 nuclear-plant meltdown at Fukushima.

The NRC hasn't determined whether to raise the figure, but a recent Scott Burnell said in an emailed reply to questions.

The NRC's lower value on American lives means that regulators have struggled to force nuclear operators to invest in safety infrastructure at plants under license. The U.S. is against a proposed European amendment to the Convention on Nuclear Safety forcing regulators to show how they're improving safety and mitigating against accidents.

"The nuclear industry complained about the number of changes they had to make," former NRC commissioner Victor Gilinsky said in an emailed response to questions. Rules now require "a cost-benefit analysis to justify any NRC action," he said.

A higher value placed on human lives, like the one the Department of Transportation uses, could change NRC risk assessments, which consider the consequences of a nuclear accident along with their probabilities, said Lyman. A Department of Transportation public-information official declined to comment on the disparity.

"The NRC does focus on the quantitative factors in reaching many of these decisions," Chairman Allison Macfarlane said in Dec. 3 Senate testimony. "Some of the quantitative factors that are considered are themselves not necessarily fully quantitative like the price of — the cost of a human life."

The U.S. Nuclear Energy Institute, the Washington-based advocacy group promoting more atomic power, has criticized regulators for imposing onerous requirements on nuclear plants that spent themselves with requirements that have little or no safety benefit," said NEI senior vice president Anthony Pietrangeli at the same Dec. 3 hearing. "If the NRC more accurately estimated the cost of its regulatory requirements it would find that many of its requirements do not pass a simple cost-benefit test."



An aerial photo of Texas facilities run by Aurora Organic Dairy, a leading producer of retail store brands, shows few cows or green pastures.

CORNUCOPIA INSTITUTE  
The Washington Post

# How organic is that milk?

## Aerial photos challenge the labeling of cows, chickens

The Washington Post

The cows that produce the nation's organic milk spend their days ruminating happily on an idyllic green pasture, usually beside iconic red barn. That, at least, is what the ubiquitous marketing would tell you.

Now an agricultural watchdog group based in Wisconsin has taken the trouble to obtain aerial photos of 14 large-scale organic farms — five dairies and nine chicken operations that supply well-known store brands such as Wal-Mart, Target and Costco, according to the group. Not surprisingly, the reality is less picturesque and more industrial than that advertising image.

More importantly, according to the group, the aerials taken in May and June of this year show very few animals outside, even though organic rules require that animals be allowed daily free access to the outdoors. Cows and chickens that are allowed outside to forage yield more nutritious milk and eggs, according to some studies.

The watchdog group, the Cornucopia Institute, says that the evidence it has collected indicates that the USDA program has too freely certified farms as "organic." It is filing complaints with the USDA against the 14 operations.

"If you showed these pictures to people buying milk and eggs at Whole Foods, they'd be appalled," said Mark Kastel, co-founder of the group. "For the past 10 years, we have observed systemic violations of the law at numerous industrial-scale livestock facilities representing themselves as 'organic.'"

Here, for example, is one of the Cornucopia aerial photos of a Texas dairy, certified organic by the USDA. It was taken on a mild May day this year. Only a small portion of the cows are out, and none are grazing in a pasture, as Cornucopia notes.

The complaints from Cornucopia re-

### Organic semantics

Current organic rules, in addition to prohibiting the use of antibiotics and hormones, call for animals to live in conditions that accommodate their "health and natural behavior." Toward that end, they are supposed to have year-round access to the "outdoors," a seemingly straightforward term that has become subject to intricate interpretations.

For dairy cows, the rules mean that the animals are supposed to be allowed to pasture during the grazing season, the duration of which can vary by location, but must be no shorter than 120 days.

For chickens, however, the rules are more ambiguous. Some farms merely give birds access to enclosed porches and say that this satisfies the "outdoors" requirement, while critics say that is a perverse reading.

"Who thinks a porch with a concrete floor and a roof is the outdoors?" said Mark Kastel, co-founder of Cornucopia Institute. "They are making things up as they go along and the USDA has gone along with it."

— The Washington Post

vive a longstanding argument within the industry over the access that "organic" animals should have to the outdoors. The complaints also stir an ongoing controversy over whether industrial-scale livestock facilities can be faithful to the ideals of the organic movement.

Kastel said the vast majority of organic farmers follow the spirit and letter of the regulations; his group offers consumers a scorecard rating the dairy and egg brands according to their compliance with the regulations.

While the growing season is long, the

photos offer evidence only about one instant in time, however, and representatives of some of the farms named in the Cornucopia complaints said the pictures do not fully represent their operations. Regardless of the images, they said, they are in full compliance with the rules for the USDA designation of "organic."

Kastel noted the absence of cows on green fields in a photo of Texas facilities run by Aurora Organic Dairy, a leading producer of retail store brands. Aurora has supplied Wal-Mart, Target, Costco and other supermarkets, according to Cornucopia. An Aurora spokesperson said their records show that the cows went out to pasture that day.

"A single photo doesn't really tell us anything about a farm and its practices," said Sonja Tuttle, a spokesperson for Aurora Organic Dairy. "Our records do indicate that all of our lactating cows at the Coldwater facility were grazing on pastures on May 17th. Since we don't know what time of day this photo was taken, we can only assume this photo was taken outside of their daily grazing hours."

The shadows in the photo suggest it is about mid-day.

Another of the targets of the Cornucopia complaints is the Idalou Egg Farm in Idalou, Texas.

A representative of the operation said that the birds may not have appeared outside because it was near mid-day and the birds may have been seeking shade. Also, he said, birds standing in the shade may not appear in the photo.

"Based on what I saw in the picture, it's high noon," said David Will, general manager of an associated company, Chino Valley Ranchers. "You will find that birds avoid being outside on bright sunny days. They are a prey creature. They are not predators."

Kastel said a high-resolution copy of the photo shows no birds out at the facility — even in the shade.

## WORLD

# Soccer ball's mythic thud still heard



VIRGINIA MAYO/AP

Re-enactors stand behind a newly unveiled World War I Christmas Truce monument in Ploegsteert, Belgium, on Thursday. The monument commemorates soldiers who took part in a spontaneous truce on some sites of the front line during the First World War.

## Memorials mark 100th anniversary of Christmas Truce during World War I

By RAF CASERT  
The Associated Press

**PLOEGSTEERT, Belgium** — On the side of a wind-swept field covered with scorpion weed, a simple, wooden cross marks a unique event in soccer history.

At its base, amid wreaths of poppies, lie a smattering of balls and various club pennants, all in remembrance of the Christmas Truce of 1914.

A century ago on Christmas Day, German and British enemies left their World War I trenches and headed into no man's land in a few scattered locations on the Western Front for an unofficial truce among soldiers. Some eyewitness accounts say they were highlighted by something as remarkable as a few soccer ball kickabouts.

"Suddenly a Tommy came with a football," wrote Lt. Johannes Niemann of Germany, referring to a British soldier. "Teams were quickly established for a match on the frozen mud, and the Fritzies beat the Tommies 3-2."

If not fully-fledged matches, other soldier's diaries and various reports also spoke of balls being kicked out in friendship.

"A huge crowd was between the trenches. Someone produced a little rubber ball so of course a football match started," Lt. Charles Brockbank of Britain's Cheshire Regiment wrote in his diary,



CYRIL DRUMMOND, PROVIDED BY THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM/AP

**World War I German and British soldiers stand together on the battlefield near Ploegsteert, Belgium, in December 1914.**

which is part of "The Greater Game" exhibit at the National Football Museum in Manchester.

The proponents of the sport have cherished that day as historic proof that there is little that can better bridge man's differences than soccer.

This Christmas, the British supermarket chain Sainsbury's has taken the idea and turned it into a blockbuster ad, showing opposing soldiers living the truce amid a soccer match at the center of the heart-tugging, some say sanitized, view of that Great War day. Michel Platini, the president of European soccer's governing

body, underscored that unique mood of brotherhood at the unveiling of the Christmas monument on Thursday on the former battlegrounds known as Flanders Fields in western Belgium, scene of some of the most horrendous killing.

The monument is a steel ball sitting on the remains of a World War I shell.

"(In Ploegsteert) and probably elsewhere on the immense front line from the North Sea to Switzerland, they get a football out, or a ball of cloth, and they started kicking it," Platini said.

For those involved in 1914, it

was most of all a yearning for a sense of normalcy, however momentarily, that pushed them over the edges of their trenches, unarmed.

The war had started on Aug. 4 when the German invasion of Belgium kicked off a series of events that quickly pitted the German and Austro-Hungarian empires against Britain, France, Russia and several allies.

Germany swept into most of Belgium and northern France and even threatened Paris before the front line was settled. Armies entrenched themselves for most of the next four years. At the time, though, the prevailing expectation on both sides had been to be home for Christmas.

When that didn't happen, an early sense of euphoria quickly made way for unrelenting gloom. It set the stage for the Christmas truce and those magic kickabouts.

Germany, alone, had lost 300,000 soldiers by Christmas.

"Who would have expected that after all this killing, that Christmas, soldiers would climb out of their trenches," German ambassador Eckart Cuntz said.

Soccer players, themselves, had been involved in the fighting from the early days. Of the 5,000 professional players at the time, about 2,000 joined the armed forces. Sometimes whole lineups signed up at the same time to cre-

ate what became known as the Footballers' Battalions. London club Clapton Orient, now known as Leyton Orient, alone had about 40 players and staff joining the war effort, all following the steps of their team captain.

Scotland's top team at the time, Edinburgh club Hearts, had its whole team join the British army one month ahead of that Christmas, a move which inspired others to join, said Peter Francis of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Seven members of that team were killed in the war.

One of the first soccer players killed in the war was Larrett Roebuck, a Huddersfield defender.

After playing for his team in a 1-0 victory at Leicester Fosse early in the 1914-15 season, he left for the Western Front and was killed in action on the eve of the first Battle for Ypres, a few miles from that patch of land in Ploegsteert.

"The story is that he set off running across the field with the machine guns going," said Roebuck's grandson, Frank Wood. "His friend saw him go down but he couldn't stop to help him. With the fight like that, you couldn't stop."



Roebuck



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## OPINION

## Victory tough with latest campaign

By DAVID IGNATIUS

**G**en. John Allen must sometimes feel that he's navigating a maze as he organizes the coalition to defeat the Islamic State: Iran is a silent partner in Iraq but a potential adversary in Syria and elsewhere; Turkey and Saudi Arabia are crucial allies, but skittish and self-interested ones; the very map of battle is uncertain, as boundaries in the region begin to blur.

When Allen took the job in September, Islamic State fighters had overrun much of Iraq and Syria, and President Barack Obama was worried that Jordan and Saudi Arabia might be next.

Allen's appointment signaled a policy decision by Obama but not yet a strategy. It could be said of Allen's effort, as Rick Atkinson wrote in "An Army at Dawn" of Allied forces in North Africa in 1942: "Only seer or purblind optimists could guess that these portents foreshadowed victory."

Victory is hard to define in this campaign, let alone accomplish. But three months into his job, Allen has at least set the order of battle in the Iraq theater of this multifront campaign:

A broad coalition against the Islamic State has been formed, and its members are flying combat missions and preparing joint information operations; Iraq's polarizing prime minister has been replaced by a more conciliatory one; an Iraqi army that had collapsed is being rebuilt in regional pieces.

The Islamic State's expansion has been halted and its members now fear to travel in convoys; when the extremists fought an open battle at Kobani in Syria, they lost an estimated 1,000 fighters.

But the fundamental contradictions of Obama's policy remain. Allen, a former commander of coalition forces in Afghanistan and one of the architects of the Sunni Awakening in Iraq, was a good choice for this evolving, ad hoc effort. But he's carrying a heavy rucksack, as Gen. David Petraeus liked to say, containing pieces of a strategy that don't yet fit together.

The most perplexing problem is Syria, where the coalition members have different agendas. Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar demand the ouster of President Bashar Assad. But Jordan and the United Arab Emirates are wary of decapitating the Syrian regime before a transition is ready. And then there's Iran, whose Hezbollah proxy force is the main reason Assad survives.

What's more, the coalition doesn't now have a credible means of defeating the extremists in Syria.

The Free Syrian Army remains a talking point rather than a real force. The CIA has trained covert groups that operate effectively in southern Syria, where Jordanian intelligence can dole out money and weapons, but are disorganized in northern Syria, where operatives backed by Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia jockey for power.

Given the Syria conundrum, Obama favors an Iraq-first strategy. But this empowers Iran, whose fighters could threaten the thousands of American military advisers streaming into Iraq.

One administration official explains: "You've got a significant number of U.S. personnel in Iraq. Do you want to take on Iran in Syria and scramble that picture? We're mindful of that."

Syria may be a version of what economists call an "impossibility theorem," where there's no good way of ordering

conflicting preferences. The moderate opposition doesn't exist; a strategy to oust Assad may imperil U.S. forces in Iraq; if Assad remains he will be a magnet for extremists; encouraging Turkish troops to help create a "safe zone" may give them lasting control of northern Syria. It's a lose-lose situation.

When there's no evident solution inside the box, it's time to look outside, and that's what Obama administration policymakers are beginning to do on Syria. They're exploring a local cease-fire that would freeze combatants in Aleppo and discussing new formulas for political transition.

Secretary of State John Kerry explains in an interview: "There's room for a lot of creative effort in diplomacy right now. And we've talked with the Russians and with others about ways to preserve the institutions of the [Syrian] state, get to a legitimate negotiation and transition, and try to end the violence."

Another intriguing development is the planned dialogue in Lebanon between the Saudi-backed Sunni leadership and Iranian-backed Hezbollah. Nader Hariri, the Sunni representative, received a glowing profile recently in the pro-Hezbollah Beirut newspaper, Al Akhbar.

A U.S. intelligence official notes: "Hezbollah through various means is signaling its interest in dialogue with key members of the Sunni community in Lebanon." Is this a path to a broader dialogue about reducing sectarian tensions and perhaps a common front against the Islamic State? "That's probably a long way off," cautions the intelligence official. But it's worth watching.

David Ignatius is a member of the Washington Post Writers Group.

## Sony hack raises cybersecurity concerns

Washington Post editorial

**T**o get a taste for the havoc possible in today's digital world, consider the recent cyberattack on Sony Pictures Entertainment.

Intruders calling themselves "Guardians of Peace" claim to have broken into Sony's networks and stolen around 100 terabytes — that's 100,000 gigabytes — of financial information, budgets, payroll data, internal emails and feature films, and they have been slowly leaking excerpts to the public through file-sharing services. The materials have caused a sensation — revealing embarrassing details about executive salaries and secret movie negotiations — but the hack is also a worrisome moment in cybersecurity.

According to the tech news site Re/code, Kevin Mandia, a cybersecurity specialist investigating the attack, told Sony the assault was "unprecedented" and the malware "undetectable by industry standard antivirus software." It was so severe, he said, that the FBI issued a flash alert to warn others of a "critical threat." He added, "In fact, the scope of this attack differs from any we have responded

to in the past, as its purpose was to both destroy property and release confidential information to the public." There has been some speculation that North Korea is behind the onslaught in retaliation for a new Sony film titled "The Interview," which depicts the assassination of North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un. The film is scheduled to open Dec. 25.

Now, Re/code reports, Sony has begun to strike back. The perpetrator of the attack is not known. But citing sources, Re/code says that Sony is firing off countermeasures aimed at disrupting the file-sharing sites distributing the stolen materials.

The counterattack involves a crude method known as denial-of-service attacks to gum up and slow down the computers carrying the illicit materials. Sony hasn't commented on the report.

This state of affairs ought to be alarming.

First, a cyberattack on a major corporation was so successful that thieves made off with an enormous amount of confidential business information.

Second, the attack may well have been the work of a sophisticated state or organized group that surmounted industrial

strength protections.

Third, a private company may have taken matters into its own hands and gone on the offensive.

This is more dangerous fallout from the political paralysis in the United States over cyberthreats — the inability of Congress and the president to provide stronger protection for the private-sector networks that are at the heart of U.S. society in the digital age.

If the private sector and government cannot reach agreement on cooperating against this threat, does it portend an era in which companies like Sony will feel the need to defend themselves with their own cyberarmies?

It wouldn't be hard to imagine private contractors, including those who have long aided the military, rushing into the breach, too.

It is now a fact that many of the world's most powerful nations are building cyber forces, either directly or with mercenary proxies. This is creating a cyberspace with plenty of risks.

It can only be more dangerous when private companies decide they, too, must roam the cyberbattlefields.

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## OPINION

## Oversight of intelligence shouldn't be partisan

By CHARLES LANE  
The Washington Post

**T**he Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's sickening report about the torture of terrorism suspects by CIA officers and contractors, with its revelations about "rectal feeding" and prolonged sleep deprivation, should trouble the conscience of every American.

Yet what's potentially most dangerous to this country's democratic future is not so much that these abuses occurred, which was already well established, but that congressional oversight of the CIA, and public discussion of it, should be developing along the same partisan political lines that quickly form around every other issue in today's polarized Washington.

The report documents CIA actions during the administration of a Republican president, George W. Bush. Democratic senators' staffers produced it; Republican input consisted of sitting out the investigation, then issuing a lengthy rebuttal that one-sidedly exonerated the Bush-era CIA.

Only one Republican senator, Arizona's John McCain, unequivocally defended the report. Just one prominent Democrat denounced it: In USA Today, former Nebraska senator Bob Kerrey wrote that the Democratic staff "started out with the premise that the CIA was guilty and then worked to prove it."

This does the United States approach a slippery slope, at the bottom of which lies an intelligence community that sees itself as the whipping boy of one political party and protected favorite of another—to the latter of which it owes reciprocal obligations.

If that ever comes to pass — if James Madison's "spirit of fac-



A worker cleans the floor of the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in Langley, Va.

tion" ever takes root within the government's least transparent agencies — American democracy might suffer irreparable harm.

To be sure, some would say that the CIA, National Security Agency and the rest have long since slipped out of political or judicial control. Also, your average intelligence officer — or military officer, for that matter — has probably always been a tad on the conservative side. That's who the job attracts.

But personal ideology, or even voting preference, is not the same as party loyalty. And for all the sins of the large, intrusive, difficult-to-manage U.S. intelligence apparatus over the years, it has generally remained free of outright political

partisanship.

This is a crucial, if underappreciated, reason that it's so hyperbolic to speak of a "United Stasi of America" — claims by Edward Snowden and his supporters to the contrary notwithstanding.

What made the Stasi, Gestapo and KGB especially threatening to political freedom was their subordination to, and seamless integration with, totalitarian political parties. Those parties' ambitions were especially monstrous, to be sure. But for a secret intelligence service, even ideologically moderate partisanship would be corrosive and corrupting, both for itself and for the wider society.

From its inception under President Harry Truman, the

United States' post-World War II intelligence community has been a bipartisan — and, therefore, non-partisan — institution, born as it was from a sense that Americans, whether Republican or Democratic, had common interests that needed protection from common external threats.

That ideal, of course, did not necessarily describe the agencies that conducted domestic surveillance and other abuses during the '60s and '70s. What's noteworthy in retrospect about that era, though, is that the political system still mustered enough consensus to impose reforms, including regular oversight of the CIA by the very Senate intelligence committee whose report is causing such

an uproar now.

Today, partisanship reigns in Washington. For Democrats, it's not enough to expose the CIA's tactics, correctly, as inhumane and cruel; these tactics must also be condemned, much more controversially, as providing no intelligence that couldn't have been gotten otherwise. For Republicans, by contrast, it's all about exaggerating the benefits of "enhanced interrogation" and playing down the costs, moral and practical.

Those who would argue for a more nuanced view have no true spokesman in Washington, unless you count President Barack Obama. He has banned "enhanced interrogation" and supported release of the Senate committee's report (after insisting on redactions), but he eschewed prosecution of the officers involved and defended the CIA and its director, John Brennan, in general terms, while refusing to weigh in directly on whether the agency's methods, objectionable as they were, helped thwart terrorist plots.

World War II gave rise to a sense of overriding national unity in the face of global threats, a feeling that obdurate and flawed but basically endured through the Cold War — and muted partisan conflict accordingly. The establishment and maintenance of professional, non-partisan intelligence services (or at least the aspiration to sustain such services), were an expression of that climate.

Some thought that the terrible attack of Sept. 11, 2001, might have a similar galvanizing effect on Americans, their politicians and their national security establishment.

What would that report and the reaction to it represent yet more proof of how false that hope was.

Charles Lane is a member of The Washington Post's editorial board.

## The West can't have a 'win-win' with a zero-sum thinker like Putin

By DAVID J. KRAMER  
The Washington Post

**T**he deal proposed by Michael O'Hanlon and Jeremy Shapiro in their Washington Post op-ed earlier this month would not just be misguided; it also would be dangerous. The premise of their argument that a "win-win" exists between Russia, Ukraine and the West is far smarter than zero-sum thinking runs counter to Russian President Vladimir Putin's exclusively "zero-sum" view of the world. If we have learned anything from the Obama administration's failed "reset" with Russia, it is that Putin unfailingly seeks to exploit the West's futile pursuit of "win-win" deals.

To get Putin to behave, O'Hanlon and Shapiro proposed granting him a veto over anything the European Union and NATO would do vis-à-vis Russia's neighbors, thereby consigning Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and other countries to a Russian sphere of influence. There is to be no more NATO enlargement, and any European Union relationship with Ukraine would have to meet with Moscow's approval and not interfere with Russia's Eurasian Economic Union project. Countries join the latter because they face tremendous Russian threats, and they join the European Union and NATO because

they see it in their own best interests.

Putin clearly is not interested in seeing Ukraine succeed; in fact, he fears that a democratic, European-oriented Ukraine would pose an attractive alternative to his authoritarian system. Putin undermines his neighbors' independence and right to pursue deeper integration with the West because of his zero-sum way of thinking. He sees movements calling for liberalization and democracy and against corruption and authoritarianism as threats to his own power. When Viktor Yanukovich, Putin's partner in Ukraine, fled the country in February, Putin invaded to make sure that Russians wouldn't get the idea that they could produce a similar result in Moscow.

How can one build a new, pan-European security structure, as O'Hanlon and Shapiro proposed, with someone who sees everything the West represents as his biggest threat?

Giving Putin any say over his neighbors' policies would be the height of irresponsibility, yet O'Hanlon and Shapiro proposed holding a referendum to determine Crimea's future. Instead, the West should stick to its policy of not recognizing Russia's annexation of Crimea, even if it takes years to return the region to Ukraine, just as it never recognized the absorption of the Baltic states by the Soviet Union. Since 2004, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia have been proud

members of NATO and the European Union — and are no doubt thankful they have security guarantees from the alliance's Article 5 in light of Russia's rising threat.

The source of tensions between the West and Russia lies with the nature of the Putin regime. To justify his invasion, Putin fabricated stories that Russian speakers and ethnic Russians, first in Crimea and then in eastern Ukraine, were under threat. In reality, no such threats existed. Putin did not cite NATO enlargement — in large part because nobody was discussing the idea of Ukraine joining the alliance. NATO had nothing to do with Putin's decision.

To the extent that it exists at all, the prospect of Ukraine's membership in NATO is a far-off possibility, but O'Hanlon and Shapiro would take it off the table entirely, overturning the alliance's decades-old "open door" policy. For the first time, a small majority of Ukrainians may want to join NATO. How demoralizing for them if NATO, on top of refusing to provide Ukraine with the military means to defend itself, were to shut the door to membership. Putin would read such a decision as open season on Ukraine and its other non-NATO neighbors.

Russia's most secure, stable borders are with countries that belong to NATO, the European Union or both. The idea that NATO, a defensive organization, is a threat to Russia is nonsense. It would be a huge mistake

to follow O'Hanlon and Shapiro's recommendation that NATO refocus on missions outside Europe when the biggest danger to the alliance is in fact in Russia. Indeed, Putin's Russia is a grave threat to its immediate neighbors, to the West and to global stability more broadly.

In their proposed deal, O'Hanlon and Shapiro demand plenty from the West. What way to deal with Putin? He would be required to retreat from eastern Ukraine and pledge to uphold Ukraine's territorial integrity. But Putin lied about the invasion of Crimea this year, continues to deny that Russian forces are in eastern Ukraine and broke his promises to abide by the Sept. 5 cease-fire. Why should his agreement on a new deal mean anything?

After the terrible toll Russia has inflicted on its neighbor — including the loss of thousands of lives — it would be unconscionable to give Putin effective veto power over Ukrainian and Western decision-making. The right way to deal with such a threat is by ramping up sanctions, supporting Russia's neighbors and providing the military assistance Ukraine needs to defend itself. We must contain Putin, not compromise with him or pursue naive "win-win" approaches that would only weaken our security and that of our friends and allies.

Kramer is senior director for human rights and democracy at the McCain Institute.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Would-be carjackers can't drive stick shift

**FL** OCALA — Police in Florida said two would-be carjackers almost got away with a vehicle in Ocala, but didn't know how to drive a stick shift.

The Ocala Star-Banner reported that the owner of a 2014 Toyota Corolla told police he was sitting in his car talking on his cellphone when a man with a gun tapped the window. Another man was by the passenger-side window.

Police said the gunman demanded the man get out of the car and turn over his keys. He gave them the keys, they got in the car and he walked away. The man stopped another motorist who called police.

But the carjackers couldn't move the car because it was a stick shift. The duo ran before police arrived, leaving the keys in the ignition.

## State sees rebound in whooping cough cases

**CA** SAN DIEGO — California officials are battling the worst whooping cough epidemic to hit the state in seven decades as a recent rebound in cases raises questions about the effectiveness of the pertussis vaccine.

Doctors emphasize that the inoculation has led to fewer deaths than in the past, and in instances where people do get sick, their illnesses aren't as severe. But California officials say the limited protection of the vaccine introduced in the 1990s has led to the rise in cases. Research has shown it doesn't last as long as the one it replaced, and a new study suggests the vaccine may not prevent the spread of the disease.

Whooping cough peaks every three to five years, and California's last epidemic was in 2010. But despite an aggressive public health campaign in response, the current outbreak is worse.

## Brothers convicted in spoiled spuds case

**ND** FARGO — Two North Dakota brothers were convicted Thursday of intentionally destroying potatoes to collect crop insurance payments in a scheme that prosecutors said defrauded the federal government of about \$2 million.

Jurors found Aaron Johnson, 50, and Derek Johnson, 47, of the Cooperstown area, guilty of conspiring to receive illegal payments and giving false statements.

Prosecutors said the brothers exploited the federal government's crop insurance program, meant to help farmers recover from losses due to naturally occurring events, including bad weather and the wet breakdown of inner potatoes after harvest. Prosecutors said that among other things, the brothers used chemicals to accelerate deterioration.

## Police probe case of man hit by 3 vehicles

**PA** PITTSBURGH — State police are trying to fig-

## THE CENSUS

# \$1,300

The amount an 11-year-old Bryant, Ark., girl paid a cabbie to take her to Florida to meet a 16-year-old boy. The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported that cellphone records showed the girl hailed a cab Dec. 5 after talking to the Jacksonville, Fla., teen, who said he didn't know the girl's plans. Her trip ended safely in Georgia, 500 miles into the cab ride, after her parents reported her missing. The cab company said the girl wore heavy makeup and appeared to be 17 or 18 and that the driver wouldn't face discipline. The girl's father said the child's cellphone and makeup have already been taken away. Bryant police said the girl stole \$1,300 from her grandmother to pay the fare, but the grandmother isn't pressing charges.



J PAT CARTER/AP

## Battling begging beach birds

A lone tourist sits on the beach in Miami battling sea gulls that are begging for food as South Florida got a taste of winter on Wednesday. Overnight lows will fall into the 50s, and a northwesterly wind flow that will steadily bring cooler air to Miami into the weekend will cause "really unseasonably cool" temperatures, said Brad Diehl, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

ure out if a West Virginia man was intoxicated before he walked on Interstate 36 in downtown Pittsburgh, where he was struck and killed by three vehicles whose drivers didn't stop.

The Allegheny County medical examiner's office planned an autopsy Thursday on the body of Christopher Ballard, 44, of Morgantown.

Police said he was walking in the eastbound lanes when he was hit by a blue passenger vehicle and thrown into the westbound

lanes, where two more vehicles struck him at about 11:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Police believe the man died from the initial impact and said the first vehicle likely has significant front-end damage.

## Ring dropped with note in Salvation Army kettle

**SD** MITCHELL — A sad love story for one man may end up brightening some

people's days this holiday season in South Dakota.

The man dropped a 14-karat-gold, half-carat diamond engagement ring along with a note in a Salvation Army kettle outside a sporting-goods store in Mitchell. The ring and note were taped to a \$10 bill.

The note partially reads: "This ring made me the happiest man in the world when she said yes, and the saddest when she returned it." The man added that he hopes the ring can be used "to make some

kids happy."

Salvation Army office manager Sheena Louchery said the ring has been valued at \$1,200. She said the group is going to try to get some bids on the ring and sell it.

## Harvard professor fights eatery over \$4

**MA** BOSTON — A Harvard Business School instructor is battling a Chinese restaurant for overcharging him by \$4 on a takeout order.

The Boston Globe reported that associate professor Benjamin Edelman complained to the Sichuan Garden after the Brookline, Mass., restaurant charged him \$1 more on each of the four items he ordered.

In an email exchange with Edelman, the restaurant acknowledged the prices listed on its website were out of date and promised to update them soon.

But Edelman demanded a \$12 refund, arguing that he's eligible for that amount under state law. He also contacted local officials to demand the restaurant compensate all other customers who might have been affected.

Edelman said officials have declined to intervene. But the restaurant agreed to pay back half of his \$53.35 bill.

## Newborn baby found in trash can, hospitalized

**AL** MARION — Authorities in west Alabama said a newborn baby has been found in a trash can.

Fourth Judicial Circuit District Attorney Michael Jackson told The Tuscaloosa News that the baby was found in the trash can in Perry County. He said the mother and baby were hospitalized late Monday.

Jackson said the baby's umbilical cord had been cut with a razor.

The mother's name was not released, and few other details were available Tuesday morning.

The Perry County Sheriff's Office is investigating.

## Officers buy homeless man bus ticket home

**IN** BOONVILLE — Three police officers who bought a homeless man a bus ticket home said "it was the right thing to do" after the man told them he was trying to get home.

Warrick County Sheriff deputies Jim Altemeyer and Adam Silva and State Master Trooper John Puskas bought the bus ticket for Jeff Stanley, 49, after he told them he had no money but wanted to get home to Georgia.

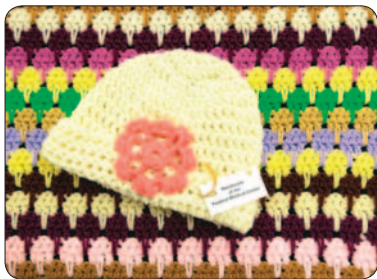
Puskas told the Evansville Courier & Press that he and the other officers pooled their money for the ticket and view it as a fulfillment of their pledge to protect and serve.

Stanley's father, Wendell Stanley, 77, of the Richmond, Va., area, said it's been two years since he's seen his son, who was expected to arrive home Thursday.

From wire reports



## LIFESTYLE



PHOTOS BY CHARLES BERTRAM, LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER/TNS

A hat and afghan, wooden toys and games, and assorted children's clothing made by inmates at the Federal Medical Center in Lexington, Ky. Around 18,000 such items will be distributed by agencies throughout Kentucky, just in time for Christmas.

BY MERLENE DAVIS

Tribune News Service

Many of the inmates at the Lexington Federal Medical Center, a facility for inmates requiring medical or mental health care, have spent time sewing, quilting, crocheting, knitting and creating wooden jewelry boxes and toys — a whopping 18,000 items — which will be distributed by agencies throughout Kentucky, just in time for Christmas.

And those gifts are not just thrown together.

"If it is not something you would give to one of your children or one of your family members, then it won't go out," said Gail Greathouse, 59, who is in training to be the coordinator for the project.

Greathouse will take over as boss when Norma Canipe, 54, is released from prison in March.

Under Canipe's direction, a fledgling program that produced a few hundred items each year is now a mammoth operation.

"I don't do a lot of crocheting; I just make sure it is done," she said. "I say I need a hundred of these and make sure it gets done."

But there's a little more to it than that.

Toni Wilder, 68, said the group makes about 200 bears a year for the Kiwanis Club in Scott County, Ky. Those bears were completed in April. When Canipe learned that she was leaving, she had the women make 100 more so far, just to get a good start on next year.

"She didn't think the quality would be up to her standards," Wilder said.

Wilder's specialty is making mats for partially sighted preschoolers in the Visually Impaired Preschool Services, and some children with the Down Syndrome Association of Central Kentucky. The mats have textured shapes that can be traced by little fingers and applied that moves or makes sound.

"I am the garbage person," Wilder said with no hint of a smile.

"I go through all of the scrap material to make these."

Nothing is wasted. Out of a couple yards of fabric, the women can make a baby blanket,

ket, a bib and a child's apron. The leftovers are cut into 5-inch squares for quilting, and the scraps are stuffed into a doggie bed.

The project falls under the Community Relations Board, which is chaired by Sally Leukefeld, who has been with the board for 23 years.

"When I came, it was just a little knitting," Leukefeld said. "Then we started the quilting program."

Quilting really took off when Elise Kalika became the quilting teacher, she said. "She made our program so much better," Leukefeld said. About 200 of the 280 women inmates at the minimum-security camp are quilters.

The woodcraft items are built by the male inmates. Some of them who are ill make crocheted and knitted animals.

Sometimes the women get to deliver the items, allowing them to see the joy their work brings to others.

One year, Canipe delivered items to a domestic violence shelter, where one little girl gleefully donned a hat and scarf and pulled a wooden dog wherever she went.

"That touched me," she said, still emotional. "Everything that I've been through, to see that, it just touched me."

Kim Brown, 50, quilts and crochets, when not at her job at the camp and other responsibilities. She proudly played a colorful youth-size quilt, complete with matching pillow case, that will soon become a treasured item.

"Time management is a great skill I've learned," Brown said.

Kenny Coleman, FMC's camp administrator, said the project, which distributed 10,000 items last year, is a "three-way partnership between the community relations board, the institution and the inmates."

"Many of them don't have ties in the Lexington area," he said. "They just feel the need to give back to the community."

The most amazing part is that the program has no budget. Everything the women and men use is donated. Everything. And with 18,000 gifts going out this month, material is desperately needed.

"Yarn is the hardest to get," Leukefeld said. "I speak at churches and other groups and beg. That is the way we exist."

Other institutions look at FMC's program as a model, she said.

"This is the place where it is happening, where we are setting the example of how it should be."

And that is fine by these women who just want to make a difference.



## Making a difference

Inmates craft thousands of holiday gifts to be donated throughout Kentucky



Kim Brown displays a children's quilt she made to fellow inmates Toni Wilder, left, Luella Crayton, second from right, and Norma Canipe.

## MUSIC

# No 'Sucker'

Rising British recording artist Charli XCX finding a spot in the 'pop circus'

By MIKAEL WOOD  
Los Angeles Times

In her hit single "Break the Rules," Charli XCX makes one thing abundantly clear: "I don't wanna go to school!" she insists over a propulsive synth-pop groove.

Yet on a recent evening, school was precisely where the young British singer found herself. Charli XCX had been booked to play the homecoming dance at Aspire Pacific Academy in Huntington Park, Calif., part of a so-called "takeover" by a video-game company launching a new title with music by the singer. So there she was in the school gym, belting out her song "Boom Clap" to several hundred students dressed in suits and candy-colored dresses.

Standing in a fluorescent-lighted hallway before her three-song set, the 22-year-old said she'd agreed to the gig because she grew up loving teen movies such as 1999's "Jawbreaker," in which pop-punk band the Donnas perform at a school prom. "But when it comes to stuff like this, I'm really selective with what I do," she added. "You're not gonna see me dressed as a sandwich on the side of the road with a sign that says 'Buy my album.' That's not really my style."

So it isn't. On "Sucker," her new record set for release on Dec. 15, Charli XCX thrashes through 13 songs full of razor-sharp keyboard licks and appealingly snotty attitude. "Everything was wrong with you, so breaking up was easy to do," she sneers in "Breaking Up"; later, in "Famous," she and some pals threaten to crash a party and "act so shameless, just like we're famous." With bracing, punk-inspired production by Patrik Berger, Justin Raisen and Vampire Weekend's Rostam Batmanglij, among others, the record is irresistible, but not because she's aiming to please.

And yet, as her recent homecoming adventure indicates, the singer born Charlotte Aitchison knows this is the moment for a push. When her major-label debut, "True Romance," came out in early 2013, Charli XCX was a hipster favorite several years removed from her early experience making videos at art school and posting songs on Myspace.

Now, though, she's a recognizable presence who's had a hand in two of the biggest hits of the last 18 months: Icona Pop's "I Love It," which she co-wrote, and Iggy Azalea's "Fancy," for which she sang the hook. Over the summer, "Boom Clap" rose to No. 8 on Billboard's Hot 100 after it was featured in the blockbuster "The Fault in Our Stars."

Her off-season between albums — I mean, you can't even call it that — said David Saslow, general manager of her label, Atlantic Records. "Those were such key strokes for her." As a result, Saslow added, the label is marketing "Sucker" much more intently than "True Romance," which sold a mere 18,000 copies in the United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

Charli XCX appeared alongside Taylor Swift and Ariana Grande Dec. 5 at Jingle Ball, the annual all-star holiday concert presented by L.A.'s influential Top 40 radio station KIIS-FM (102.7). And she's scheduled to appear Dec. 13 on "Saturday Night Live."

## Charli XCX

Sucker (Atlantic Records)

Charli XCX, the British artist with a penchant for teenage churlishness, has had a thing or two about warfare. With her second major label album, "Sucker," she throws a smoke grenade of rock-pop

digestibles and runs for cover while the listeners stumble around intoxicated and confused.

First single "Boom Clap" is an electrifying synth with a punchy hook. The dark sound of "Break the Rules" gives her an edge mitigated by the somewhat childish chant, "I don't wanna go to school/I

KIIS program director John Ivey said the serrated sound of "Sucker" fits in well alongside current hits by Lorde and the Swedish singer Tove Lo. (Raisen called the approach "I Love It" on Ramones steroids.") But Ivey added that Charli XCX's music also reflects a seriousness and a clarity of purpose that reminds him of a different kind of artist, one who likewise moved from writing songs for others to becoming a huge star on his own.

"She's got a little bit of that Bruno Mars thing," he said.

Charli XCX said that watching "I Love It" and "Fancy" explode — and then having record executives press her for more songs exactly like them — made her want to do two things at the same time on her new album.

"On one hand, it's clearly very pop," she said. "On the other, it's me critiquing this weird world that I've somehow ended up in. That's why I called the album 'Sucker.' I'm pointing a finger at all the boring people I've met in this industry who take themselves so seriously and think it's important to have meetings about clothes." She laughed.

"But of course I'm aware that I'm part of the pop circus."

And the circus seems in little danger of shutting down. As she prepared for a meet-and-greet with a group of students at Aspire Pacific Academy, the singer mentioned that she'd just bought her first apartment, located about an hour outside of London.

"It's actually the old ballroom of this mansion that's been split up," she said excitedly, adding that she planned to decorate it with a "super '70s porno vibe": shag carpeting, hanging chairs, the whole bit.

"It's gonna be sick," she said. "But so far I've been there three times."



just wanna break the rules." The song, however, works as a potent instigator to party.

The title track is another cheeky rock invective thrown at all those boring adults who don't know how to have fun. The sound throughout "Sucker" borrows riffs heavily from mid-'90s alterna-

tive rock bands like Elastica, especially on tracks like "Gold Coins," "Hanging Around" and "Breaking Up."

This is petulant rock at its best and teenage angst at its worst, with a good measure of talent.

— Cristina Jaleru  
The Associated Press



# MUSIC

## NEW ALBUMS

### David Guetta

Listen  
(Atlantic/Parlophone)

David Guetta has proved again and again he's the master of the dance floor hook. The Frenchman's sixth album, "Listen," brings an army of reasons to support this without veering too much into club territory — from the myriad collaborators that elevate the dance tunes to a collection of well-crafted tracks to the mix and match of genres.

"Dangerous" starts off the record with an urgent piano that suggests the possibilities are endless, while "Lovers on the Sun," featuring Sam Martin, is an unlikely Western spaghetti dance tune that touches on post-modernist sensibilities. It's the album's standout track.

Sia, who worked with Guetta on the massive hit "Titanium," works a double shift on the new album. She contributes to "Bang My Head" and "The Whisperm" and presents two faces of the same coin: techno euphoria on the one hand and piano soulfulness on the other.

The album's chill-out factor comes from three Caribbean-flavored tracks: the catchy "Lift Me Up," the tongue-in-cheek yet affable "No Money No Love" and the dull if feasible "Sun Goes Down" with MAGIC! Nicki Minaj and Afrojack deliver a startling R&B bump and funk gem in "Hey Mama," and John Legend, another uniquely gifted performer, offers another brilliant reason to love this album — his ballad "Listen" wrangles both the ears and the hips into action.

Guetta might be a club kid at heart, but his music has managed to grow up.

— Cristina Jaleru/The Associated Press

### One Direction

Four (Sycow/Columbia)

One Direction has done the almost impossible for a boy band: The English-Irish quintet has held the fickle attentions of teenage girls the world over for three years — the equivalent of 30 in tween years

— and the band's new album, "Four," isn't likely to diminish the group's stronghold.

On "Four," One Direction — Niall Horan, Zayn Malik, Liam Payne, Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson — continues to produce perfectly polished pop tunes with the edges buffed for maximum shine. And shine they do: it's hard to deny the anodyne appeal of strummer "Ready To Run," the up-tempo Buddy Holly-sway of "Girl Almighty," the Ed Sheeran-tinged sweetly nostalgic "18," or new single, "Night Changes," which might or might not be about losing one's innocence. It's hard to tell since the band's lyrics wisely never veer from PG.

Produced primarily by Julian Bunetta and John Ryan, musically, "Four" often harks back to the '80s, a decade before any of the band members were born, with open, echo-y drums that wouldn't sound out of place on a Martika record. Acoustic guitars and synthesizers comfortably collide throughout.

One Direction's primary appeal is its members' vulnerability. When they aren't riding in on their white steeds to rescue the girl, they are willing victims of love, seemingly powerless over femme fatales on songs like peppy "No Control" and "Stockholm Syndrome." In a capricious world, they promise undying fealty and they will never knowingly hurt you, or if they do, they are relentlessly apologetic, such as on "Where Do Broken Hearts Go." They are as mythical and non-threatening as unicorns, and that's why teenage girls find them so fetching.

One Direction's last album, "Midnight Memories," was the world's best-selling album of 2013. "Four" will likely give Taylor Swift's "1989" a run for its money for the 2014 title.

— Melinda Newman/The Associated Press



# Faithful to a fault

## Too-reverent tribute only traces the surface

BY RANDY LEWIS  
Los Angeles Times

Either imitation really isn't the sincerest form of flattery, or flattery simply isn't all it's cracked up to be. Either way, the new two-CD tribute to the music of Paul McCartney, "The Art of McCartney," is a glaring example of a blown opportunity.

It must have looked great on paper. Producer Ralph Sall, a longtime fan of the ex-Beatle as well as a big admirer of the long-running touring band that backs McCartney on his concert tours, started with a great idea and then scored the participation of a wealth of rock and pop stars, each offering his or her take on a song from McCartney's estimable songbook.

That talent list is impressive: Bob Dylan, Brian Wilson, Willie Nelson, Allen Toussaint, Dr. John, and in a nod to musicians who got their start after 1970, the Airborne Toxic Event, Owl City and Perry Farrell, to name a smattering of the nearly three dozen participants.

They're backed by McCartney's band, which ostensibly adds another layer of authority. But there's the rub. As expertly as guitarists Brian Ray and Rusty Young, keyboardist Paul Wickens and drummer Abe Laboriel Jr. back the man himself, their note-perfect renditions of original Beatles, Wings and McCartney solo arrangements behind all the guests, with a couple of noteworthy exceptions, simply results in an extended session of Paul McCartney karaoke night.

What light can Billy Joel shed on "Maybe I'm Amazed" or "Live and Let Die" when the only difference between Joel and McCartney's performances is Joel's slightly gruffer voice? Even the guitar solo is identical to Paul's.

Where's the insight into "Junior's Farm" or "Hey Jude" as sung by Steve Miller (!) against carbon copy accompaniment from the original records? And was anybody anywhere waiting breathlessly to hear Sammy Hagar rock out on "Birthday?"

Even the ever idiosyncratic Night Tripper, New Orleans funkmeister Dr. John, seems straightjacketed in his game stab at "Let 'Em In." At least Allen Toussaint

brings a shred of Crescent City flavor to his performance of the New Orleans-inspired "Lady Madonna." B.B. King also unleashes a good measure of the blues spirit to a comparatively obscure choice, "On the Way" from 1980's "McCartney II" album.

To be sure, it's a twisted treat hearing 73-year-old Dylan growl his way through "Things We Said Today," making the minor-key reverie sound more ominous than ever, and Jamaica's Toots Hibbert, who's joined by stellar reggae rhythm section Sly & Robbie, immediately freshens up "Come and Get It" with a perky island groove.

The standout track of the whole project is easily Brian Wilson's treatment of another relatively low-profile track: "Wanderlust," from McCartney's 1982 album, "Tug of War." That may reflect the mutual admiration these two separated-at-birth pop icons — born two days and an ocean apart in June 1942 — have held throughout most of their lives.

### Various Artists

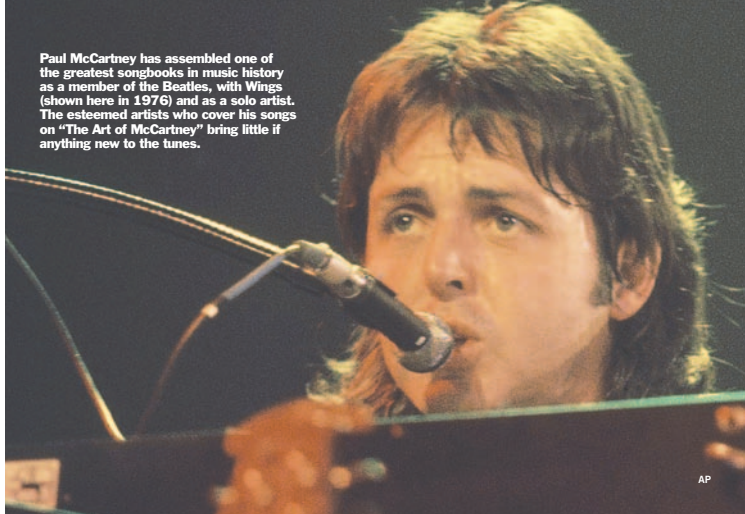
The Art of McCartney (Kobalt)

Even with his limited voice of today to work with, Wilson invests considerable melancholy and sweetness into his performance, and his rich harmonies, of course, are characteristically gorgeous. It helps that the song is nowhere near as intensely familiar as such cornerstone numbers as "Let It Be," "Band on the Run," "The Long and Winding Road," and the other McCartney biggies that make up the bulk of this collection.

If only the others brought aboard were extended as much freedom to do something other than trace outlines over the contours of this familiar canon.

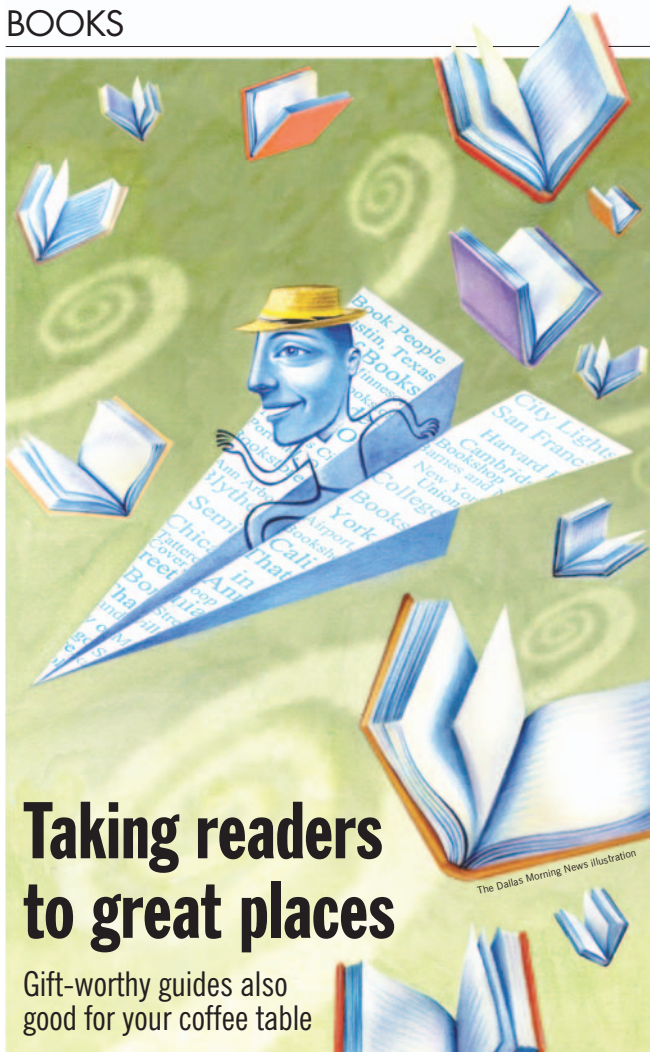


Paul McCartney has assembled one of the greatest songbooks in music history as a member of the Beatles, with Wings (shown here in 1976) and as a solo artist. The esteemed artists who cover his songs on "The Art of McCartney" bring little if anything new to the tunes.





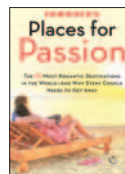
## BOOKS



# Taking readers to great places

Gift-worthy guides also good for your coffee table

Other books available this season from Lonely Planet: "Best



in **Travel 2015**," with lists of top countries, cities, regions, freebies and more for the new year; **"The Best Place to Be Today,"** with a recommendation of the best place to visit every day of the year; **"Travel Tips,"** a small, cute flip book that offers advice on how to book trips, how to complain, how to stay healthy and even what to bring—like a \$20 Casio F91-



W watch  
works  
ages"  
and will  
never be  
stolen.



**TRAVEL**

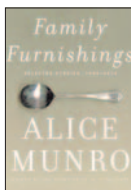


the book offers interesting factoids on topics like travel safety (road accidents are the leading cause of tourist deaths worldwide); accounts of what it's like to travel in a wheelchair or if you're overweight; and photo comparisons of "English breakfasts" served by airlines worldwide.

# Munro's short stories capture the human experience

"Family Furnishings" serves as a companion volume to an earlier compendium, "Selected Stories," and is as good a place as any to get acquainted with her distinctive voice: pitiless and tender, solemn and sly, elegant and clunky, and always terrifyingly intelligent.

The stories are mostly written in a straightforward key, yet some are strange and experimental — parts of “My Mother



tasks of housework — historically, a feminine pursuit — or to the howling, almost inhuman demands of nursing infants? And yet Munro's work cannot be pigeonholed as simple scenes of domesticity.

er's Dream," for instance, are narrated by an infant. They veer sharply backward and forward in time, the point of view shifting among a host of major and minor characters.

Has any writer ever paid such loving attention to the tedious, repetitive—historically, a female howling, almost nursing infants? And not be pigeonholed as a domesticity

Braided through her pointillistic accounts of family life, set largely in the farm towns of southwestern Ontario, are shocking episodes of adultery, incest, alcoholism and even murder, always recounted in her calm, matter-of-fact tone. Thus her work has been described as Canadian (a synonym for well-mannered?) gothic.

Since the 2012 publication of "Dear Life," which includes several semiautobiographical stories, and her winning the 2013 Nobel Prize at age 82, the facts of her life have become known. Born during the Depression to parents of modest means, she watched her mother struggle with early-onset Parkinson's disease and her father struggle to make a living, first as a fox farmer, then in a foundry.

ish Columbia, she scribbled stories during her children's naps and between loads of laundry, raising three daughters (a fourth died) before the marriage fell apart. Next, a move back to Ontario and a happy second union with a former college acquaintance, a geographer whom she credited with helping her appreciate the flat terrain of her childhood.

Echoes of her life reverberate through the stories, and while the names and circumstances change, the themes remain constant: the value of hard work, the enduring influence of family, the corrosive effects of class, the explosive power of love, and the beauty and terror of nature. Not the least of her concerns, perhaps best expressed in the title story, is her ardent ambition to turn her life into art.

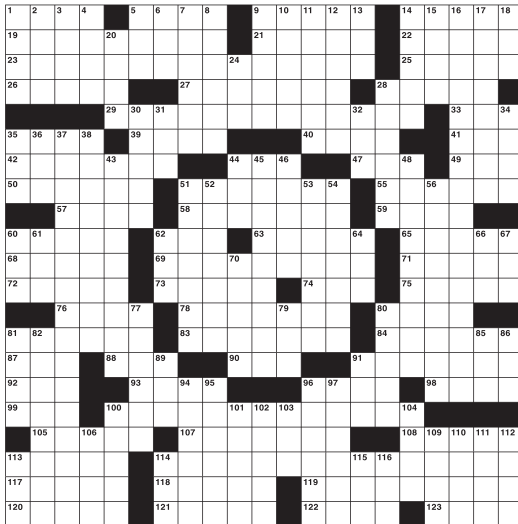
# CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

### HOLDUP MAN

BY JEFF CHEN/EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mariner's array  
5 Bubs  
9 "Take ..." (exec's request)  
14 Get cracking on  
19 "Superfood" used in smoothies  
21 Devilfish  
22 Like some college halls  
23 "One who's not leading  
25 Broad valleys  
26 Group of jerks  
27 Excoriates  
28 Goes like hotcakes  
29 "I have some bad news ..."  
33 Fish on many a sashimi platter  
35 Bryn ...  
39 Yankees teammate of Captain Clutch  
40 Compos mentis  
41 Relieved (of)  
42 Bread at a restaurant, typically  
44 ID provider  
47 Conf out  
49 Unrefined material  
50 Muttered commentary  
51 Get a cut of  
55 Transplants  
57 Jubilation  
58 Middle line of many an address: Abbr.  
59 Google statistic  
60 Part of OTOH  
62 Java holder  
63 Two will get you turned around
- 65 Cereal box abbr.  
68 Paws  
69 Very durable  
71 Bartromo of Fox Business  
72 Charmin competitor  
73 City in which "One  
74 Bald-spot coverer  
75 Have a loan from  
76 Charges  
78 Content that's hard for a search engine to access  
80 Ali-  
81 Standard of measurement  
83 F.D.R. purchased the first one of these bonds  
84 Sci-fi shooter  
87 Result of a firing  
88 Not pay attention  
90 Was idle  
91 Paid at the end, say  
92 Big pitcher  
93 U.S. city that becomes another U.S. city if you move the last letter to the front  
96 An eternity  
98 Mother of Eos and Helios  
99 Animal's mouth  
100 "What a message may relieve  
105 Ones with muses  
107 Breathe?  
108 Big Three conference site
- 113 Create, as a canyon  
114 "Not shirk a difficult task  
117 Warren who wrote "The War of the Roses"  
118 One with dreads  
119 Engineers' competition set in a ring  
120 Director  
121 Arches in Gothic architecture  
122 Be a busy beaver?  
123 Written paeans
- DOWN**
- 1 Force + acceleration  
2 Small bar specification  
3 Smurf in red  
4 Nurses  
5 French sea  
6 It's often left hanging  
7 It's been shortening since 1911  
8 Matched up  
9 Operatic baritone  
10 Pasquate  
11 Pichu (Peruvian high spot)  
12 Crosses a threshold  
12 Greek high spot  
13 Sculling implement  
14 Like some TVs, informally  
15 Track, often
- 16 "Comfort provider during difficult times  
17 Concert souvenir  
18 Has way too much, briefly  
20 Flame out  
24 Jocund  
28 Christmas gift holder  
30 Rear  
31 Is for two?  
32 Armageddon  
34 Day to beware  
35 Juilliard deg.  
36 MGM motto opener  
37 "Crushing burden  
38 Having special significance  
43 Something handled in a bar  
44 Dollop  
45 "Arnold Schwarzenegger, once  
46 Perturbed  
48 She played Joanie in red  
49 Nurses  
51 Goes viral, say  
52 Puff the Magic Dragon's land  
53 Imbues, as with flavor  
54 Option in "Hamlet"  
56 Corroded  
60 Mantra sounds  
61 Idiosyncrasy  
62 Doodles edited out of some audio  
64 Barrett of Pink Floyd  
66 Native \_\_\_\_  
67 Chinese "way"  
70 Zigs or zags



- 77 April foolers, e.g.  
79 Like some bars and blankets  
80 "The Godfather" enforcer who "sleeps with the fishes"  
81 The "m" of "yes'm"  
82 Deed of derring-do  
85 Mideast inits.  
86 Org. with the Larry O'Brien Trophy
- 89 Vim  
91 It contains uracil  
94 "The Little Mermaid" villainess, for one  
95 Melodious  
96 "La Polce Vita"  
97 Coordinated gene cluster  
100 Gestating, after "in"
- 101 Nasty sort  
102 Mythological figure hinted at by the answers to the eight starred clues as well as this puzzle's design  
103 Something to chew on  
104 Da's opposite  
106 Eternally
- 109 "Not to mention ..."  
110 Forte  
111 Break  
112 Kerfuffles  
113 Ceiling  
114 Sign of success?  
115 Scheduling placeholder  
116 "And \_\_\_\_"

## GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at [gunstonstreet@yahoo.com](mailto:gunstonstreet@yahoo.com), and visit [gunstonstreet.com](http://gunstonstreet.com).

## RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

Stripes CENTRAL

Stripes BLOGS

Get your fair share from our award-winning journalists at [Stripes.com/blogs](http://Stripes.com/blogs).

PACIFIC SPORTSBLOG

PACIFIC STORM TRACKER

OMBUDSMAN

## GADGETS &amp; CHARTS

## GADGET WATCH

## May the grill fork be with you this holiday

By GREGG ELLMAN  
Tribune News Service

What do you want for Christmas? What should we get your mother? Will they like this or that? Did we get your dad anything yet?

Whatever your question is this holiday season, I have the answers here.

Darth Vader is unlikely to show up at your house to cook a steak, but the next best thing can be the Star Wars Darth Vader Lightsaber BBQ fork.

It was created by ThinkGeek with a handle that looks like Vader's lightsaber hilt. A hanging ring is built into the handle for storing the stainless steel fork.

It's big enough to pick up any piece of meat, measuring 20 inches long with over a 3-inch tines.

Online: ThinkGeek.com, \$9.99

The V-Moda XS headphones are made with a CligFold hinge connecting the padded ear cups, which allows them to fold up and store in the included hard case.

V-Moda designed and tested them to withstand up to 60 drops on concrete, and the steelflex headband is virtually indestructible.

The big and powerful sound comes from 40mm dual-diaphragm drivers in each ear.

Other features include a 45-degree plug and tangle-free cords, which include a microphone that can be used with Apple iPhone, iPad, Android and Windows hand-held devices.

Online: v-moda.com/XS; special pricing of \$189 for the rest of the year, available in matte black metal or white silver

WhiteWall online photo lab, which likes to call itself an online Art Market, can take your priceless digital images and make amazing prints on acrylic, aluminum, canvas or (of course) paper.

On its user-friendly website, upload an image and design what you want using what seems like an endless amount of choices.

I recently tested the site with ease and chose to print on acrylic. The finished product was amazing, and far exceeded my expectations.

Anything you choose will be handled with care. The customer service was great, and the company guarantees competitive pricing.

Pricing varies depending on service; you'll get the price at the start of the process when you choose your printing or framing option.

Online: us.whitewall.com

The PressReader app gives you a choice of more than 2,800 newspapers and magazines from 100-plus countries delivered to your house daily without getting out of bed to open the front door.

Subscriptions for the publications you order on the app can be read on most smartphones, tablets, eReader and laptops (iOS, Android, Windows 8 or BlackBerry 10 operating systems).

You can personalize your experience within the apps' publications by special interests, publication type, language or country.

I personally love the bookmark feature to automatically sync articles across my devices (iPad, iPhone, MacBook Pro) for later reading.

Online: pressreader.com; prices start at \$9.99 per issue up to \$29.95 per month to unlimited access

The NewerTech NuGreen LED desk lamp might just make you excited about this basic piece of furniture. It's designed with a modern aluminum

The NewerTech NuGreen LED Desk Lamp produces a bright white light similar to natural daylight, and uses only 3.6 watts of power.

style and features a flexible neck for easy positioning. One end has a weighted base to keep it in place, and the other has the light with 50 LEDs for up to 45,000 hours of use (more than 5½ years).

The bright white light is similar to natural daylight, which is easier on your eyes and only uses an electric bill-friendly 3.6 watts of power.

Online: eshop.macsales.com; \$49.99

Evutec Corporation's new Karbon S and SI Kevlar cases for the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus are among the thinnest and strongest cases you'll see, and the eye-catching designs make them even better.

The Kevlar material does not contain any metal properties and will not affect cellular, GPS or Wi-Fi in the handsets. Structurally it's made with a shock-absorbing inner layer, fused with a Kevlar outer shell.

As for the thickness, when you combine the new iPhone 6 with a 0.7mm thin Karbon S case it equals the thickness of an iPhone 5 device without a case.

And your phone will still look great!

Online: evutec.com; prices start at \$39.99 and are also available for select Samsung and iPads

The Monster SuperStar portable wireless speaker is promoted as "size does matter," and in this case they mean that good things sometimes come in tiny packages.

Considering its size of 5 by 2.55 by 0.86 inches (0.5 pounds), it's smaller than many smart phones, and you'll be as amazed

If you've got a "Star Wars" fan who's also into grilling, put a fork in your shopping list — you're done with this Star Wars Darth Vader Lightsaber BBQ fork from ThinkGeek.

Photos by TNS

by the powerful sound from the pocket-sized speaker.

The Pure Monster Sound and advanced apt-X digital processing produces the crystal clear wireless stereo sound.

It also works as a handsfree speaker phone with a built-in mic on a desktop or a dashboard.

Online: MonsterProducts.com; \$99.95, available in neon blue, gray, neon green and neon pink

The Monster SuperStar portable wireless speaker is pocket-sized but powerful.

The new Karbon S and SI Kevlar cases for the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus from Evutec Corporation are among the thinnest and strongest cases you'll find.

## ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for Dec. 10:

1. "Blank Space," Taylor Swift
2. "The Hanging Tree," James Newton Howard
3. "Take Me to Church," Hozier
4. "Uptown Funk (feat. Bruno Mars)," Mark Ronson
5. "Lips Are Movin'," Meghan Trainor
6. "Make It Rain," Ed Sheeran
7. "The Blower's Daughter," Matt McAndrew
8. "Jealous," Nick Jonas
9. "I'm Not the Only One," Sam Smith
10. "Shake It Off," Taylor Swift

— Compiled by TNS

## SPOTIFY MUSIC

The most streamed tracks on Spotify from Dec. 2-7 via Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter and Spotify.

1. "Take Me to Church," Hozier
2. "Love Me Harder," Ariana Grande
3. "I'm Not the Only One," Sam Smith
4. "Thinking Out Loud," Ed Sheeran
5. "The Heart Wants What It Wants," Selena Gomez
6. "Uptown Funk," Mark Ronson
7. "I Don't F--- With You," Big Sean
8. "Jealous," Nick Jonas
9. "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
10. "Tuesday (feat. Drake)," I LOVE M-KONNEN

— Compiled by The Associated Press

## ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for Dec. 10:

1. "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes"
2. "Guardians of the Galaxy"
3. "The Maze Runner"
4. "The Hundred-Foot Journey"
5. "Under the Skin"
6. "22 Jump Street"
7. "The November Man"
8. "Elf"
9. "This Is Where I Leave You"
10. "The Giver"

— Compiled by TNS

## VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer ranks the Top 10 PlayStation 3 games for December:

1. "Dragon Age: Inquisition," Electronic Arts
2. "Game of Thrones Episode One — Iron from Ice," Telltale Games
3. "Far Cry 4," Ubisoft
4. "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare," Activision
5. "The Evil Within," Bethesda
6. "Skylanders: Trap Team," Activision
7. "LittleBigPlanet 3," Sony Computer Entertainment
8. "Middle-earth: Shadow of Mordor," Warner Bros.
9. "Assassin's Creed: Rogue," Ubisoft
10. "Kingdom Hearts HD 2.5 Remix," Square Enix

— Compiled by TNS

## APPS

Top 5 new free apps for Dec. 10:

1. Candy Crush Soda Saga, King
  2. Deck Heroes, IGG.COM
  3. My Talking Angela, Outfit7
  4. Godus, DeNA Corp.
  5. Fun Run 2 — Multiplayer Race, Dribbit
- Top 5 free apps for Dec. 10:
1. Trivia Crack, Etermax
  2. Facebook Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
  3. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.
  4. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.
  5. YouTube, Google, Inc.

— Compiled by TNS



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# INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

## Whenever They Fight and Wherever They Live

The first Stars and Stripes was printed during the Civil War, when a band of Union soldiers published a handful of editions.

During World War I, Stars and Stripes reappeared in Paris on February 8, 1918, to serve the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), by order of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. An all-military staff produced it weekly until the war's end.

A second renaissance began on April 18, 1942, when a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first World War II edition of Stars and Stripes featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who described Stars as a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes later found a champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States.

Eisenhower enforced a hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published over 30

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had some 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

The war ended—but Stars and Stripes kept going. Its reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field, throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1990s Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stars reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

Stars and Stripes today is a multimedia news organization. The majority of Stars and Stripes unique reporting efforts is read now in digital form, either online at [stripes.com](http://stripes.com) or via mobile offerings for iPhone, Android and iPad, in over 200 countries around the world.

The print newspaper is still available for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in

Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific—and in contingency areas. Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where daily editions are transmitted to printers in Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Djibouti, as well as in Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, and South Korea. Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (Stripes Guam, Japan, Korea and Okinawa), designed to serve the

needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world now serves stateside forces and veterans. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.



## STARS AND STRIPES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

2014 VFW News Media Award – For outstanding contribution to a better understanding of our American way of life and its institutions and interests by honest and forthright reporting.

2013 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Notable Narrative Winner  
Recipient: Laura Rauch

2013 Best American Newspaper Narrative Writing Contest – Notable Narrative Winner  
Recipient: Martin Kuz: "Soldiers Recount Attack"

2013 National Headline Awards – Second Place: News Series (Forever After: A Warrior Wounded; A Family Challenged)

2013 min Best of Web: Redesign – Honorable Mention  
Stripes UK website

2011 Military Photographer of the Year – Honorable Mention  
Recipient: Joshua DeMotts

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award – Breaking News Photography (Newspaper Circulation 100,001+ or Affiliated Website/National Magazine) Recipient: Laura Rauch: "For those I love I will sacrifice"

2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary Award for Excellence in Journalism – Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipient: Jon Rabinoff

2010 National Headline Awards – First Place: Public Service (Forcing Change) – Third Place: News Series (Coming Home: The Men of Triple Deuce)

2009 George Polk Awards in Journalism – George Polk Award for Military Reporting  
Recipients: Charlie Reed, Leo Shane III and Kevin Barton

2009 min Editorial & Design Awards – Editorial Print / Special Supplement: HEROES 2009; Custom Publication Design: Stripes GAMER

2007 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipient: Monte Morin

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipients: Monte Morin, Joe Giordano; Honorable mention: Nancy Montgomery Photography; Fred Zimmerman

2005 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipients: Steve Lewis Photography; Terry Boyd

2004 American Legion Excellence in Journalism Award – Ground Truth Series

2003 Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Award – First Amendment, Finalist

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Oil plunges to recession-level depths

By JONATHAN FAHEY  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Another forecast of weak global demand, another nose dive for oil.

A 6-month run in the price of oil accelerated this week, culminating in a 4 percent drop Friday — its third such drop in 5 days — to its lowest level since May of 2009, when the U.S. was still in recession. Friday's trigger was a lowered expectation for oil consumption from the International Energy Agency.

The benchmark U.S. oil price closed down \$2.14 to close at \$57.81 per barrel in New York. It is now 46 percent below its late-June high for the year of \$107.26. Brent crude, the international standard used to price oil purchases by many U.S. refineries, fell 77 cents to close at \$61.85.

In its monthly oil report, the IEA said global oil demand in 2015 will grow by 900,000 barrels per day — 230,000 less than pre-

viously forecast — to 93.3 million barrels per day.

The agency said the reduction was a result of "the ever-more tentative pace of the global economic recovery."

It was the latest in a string of reports and forecasts that suggest that there is far more oil being produced globally than there is demand for it.

OPEC said Wednesday that higher production from non-OPEC members and weak global economic growth will reduce demand for its oil to 28.9 million barrels per day next year. That's the lowest level in more than a decade, and less than the 30 million barrels per day that the group says it plans to produce next year.

Also on Wednesday, the Energy Department reported a surprise increase in U.S. crude supplies of 1.5 million barrels. Analysts were expecting a decline of 2.2 million barrels. Gasoline stocks also increased more than expected.

Earlier in the week, Japan reported that its economy shrank more than expected and new factory data from China suggested further slowing there.

On Friday, the IEA said several years of high oil prices prompted drillers around the world to develop new oil fields. Now that oil is surpassing demand. For example, U.S. production has surged by 3.5 million barrels per day since 2008 — more than every OPEC nation except Saudi Arabia.

The agency dampened expectations that the fall in oil prices will automatically be a boon for the global economy.

"The adverse impact of the oil price rout on oil-exporting economies looks likely to offset, if not exceed, the stimulus it could provide for oil-importing countries against a backdrop of weak economic growth and low inflation," the IEA said.

It highlighted the impact on Russia, which has been hit particularly hard by the market

sell-off.

Others, however, believe the benefit to consumers from lower fuel prices outweighs the negatives for energy producers. In a note last month, Barclay's estimated that a 20 percent decline in gas prices in the U.S. results in \$70 billion of savings for consumers, money that helps restaurants, clothing stores, movie theaters and other businesses that depend on discretionary spending.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 15)	\$1.2776
Dollar buys (Dec. 15)	€0.7827
British pound (Dec. 15)	\$1.61
Japanese yen (Dec. 15)	¥115.00
South Korean won (Dec. 15)	₩1,076.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.5706/£0.6367
Canada (dollar)	1.1588
China (Yuan)	6.1874
Denmark (Krone)	5.9137
Egypt (Pound)	7.1512
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.2451/£0.8031
Euro	1.2515
Hungary (Forint)	247.50
Israel (Shekel)	3.9096
Japan (Yen)	118.75
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2917
Norway (Krone)	7.5691
Philippines (Peso)	44.37
Poland (Zloty)	3.36
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7531
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3138
South Korea (Won)	1,104.20
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9645
Thailand (Baht)	32.83
Turkey (New Lira)	2.2074

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., currencies of countries other than the United States), all figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### MARKET WATCH

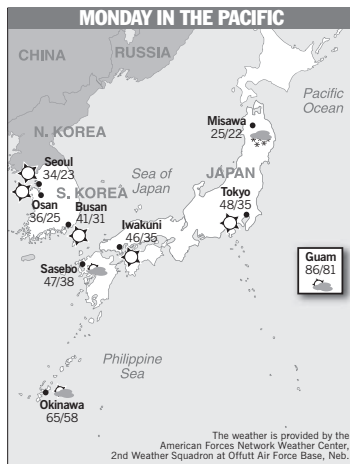
Dec. 12, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-315.51
	17,280.83
Nasdaq composite	-54.56
	4,653.60
Standard & Poor's 500	-33.00
	2,002.33
Russell 2000	-14.51
	1,152.45

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.25
Federal funds market rate	0.12
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	2.74

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



### Monday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ableene, Tex	69	44	Cldy	Chatanooga	56	33	PCldy	Fort Wayne	47	42	Rain	Louisville	50	40	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	44	39	Cldy	Chicago	51	46	Cldy	Fresno	57	44	PCldy	Lubbock	60	34	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	37	26	PCldy	Cincinnati	47	39	Cldy	Goodland	41	24	Snow	Macon	64	33	Cldy
Albuquerque	48	26	Cldy	Cleveland	46	41	Cldy	Grand Junction	40	30	Cldy	Madison	47	44	Rain
Allentown, Pa.	44	29	Cldy	Colorado Springs	41	22	Snow	Great Falls	36	18	PCldy	Medford	45	37	Cldy
Amarillo	57	29	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	63	33	Cir	Green Bay	44	40	Rain	Milwaukee	65	48	Cldy
Asheville	57	30	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	62	36	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	58	32	Cir	Midland-Odesa	63	36	Cir
Atlanta	58	36	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	45	40	Cldy	Harrisburg	44	33	Cldy	Minneapolis	49	45	Rain
Atlantic City	48	30	PCldy	Concord, N.H.	36	25	PCldy	Hartford-Springfield	41	29	PCldy	Mpls-St Paul	49	38	Rain
Austin	72	58	Cldy	Corpus Christi	79	65	Cldy	Hellena	35	14	Cldy	Missoula	32	17	Cldy
Baltimore	72	58	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	69	49	Rain	Honolulu	83	70	Cir	Monterey	64	37	Cir
Baton Rouge	71	52	Cldy	Dayton	46	39	Cldy	Houston	73	63	Cldy	Nashville	55	35	Cldy
Bilings	38	21	Cldy	Daytona Beach	67	42	Cir	Huntsville	59	37	Cir	New Orleans	69	54	Cir
Birmingham	61	38	Cir	Denver	35	23	Snow	Indianapolis	49	42	Rain	Portland, Me.	39	22	PCldy
Bismarck	33	22	Cldy	Des Moines	58	48	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	70	49	Cir	Portland, Ore.	47	35	PCldy
Boise	38	25	PCldy	Detroit	46	41	Cldy	Jacksonville	66	37	Cir	Pueblo	44	21	Cir
Boston	39	30	Cldy	Duluth	40	33	Cldy	Kansas City	61	49	Cldy	Reno	43	27	Cldy
Bridgeport	39	30	Cldy	El Paso	59	37	Cir	Knoxville	50	30	Cldy	Richmond	55	33	Cldy
Brownsville	79	66	Cldy	El Paso	59	37	Cir	Lansing	48	43	Cldy	Rochester	37	33	Cldy
Buffalo	38	35	Rain	Erie	42	39	Cldy	Las Vegas	55	41	Cldy	Rockford	61	45	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	35	24	Cldy	Evansville	44	35	Cldy	Las Vegas	55	41	Cldy	Sacramento	56	46	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	36	23	Cldy	Fairbanks	15	5	Cldy	Lincoln	59	38	Cldy	St. Louis	58	49	Cldy
Casper, Wyo.	36	17	Snow	Fargo	39	24	Cldy	Little Rock	65	51	Cldy	St. Thomas	86	74	PCldy
Charleston, S.C.	65	36	Cldy	Flagstaff	40	20	Cldy	Los Angeles	65	52	PCldy	St. Paul	45	35	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	44	35	Cldy	Flint	47	41	Cldy	Long Beach	62	47	Cldy	St. Peter	41	25	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	58	34	Cir	Fort Smith	67	52	Cldy	Los Angeles	65	52	PCldy	St. Petersburg	71	56	Cldy

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

**National temperature extremes**  
Hi: Fri., 78, Brooks County, Texas,  
Phoenix, Ariz., and Tucson, Ariz.  
Lo: Fri., 1, Antero Reservoir, Colo.





## SPORTS BRIEFS/MLB

## Briefly

## Mayweather suggests date to fight Pacquiao

The Associated Press

Floyd Mayweather Jr. says he's ready to fight Manny Pacquiao next May in a long anticipated bout that would be the richest ever in boxing.

Mayweather called for negotiations for the fight to be taken place, though he warned Pacquiao not to expect to get anywhere near the money that he himself would make.

"You lost twice and now you're coming back begging for the same money?" Mayweather asked. "That's not gonna happen."

In an interview on the Showtime network from a fight card he was promoting in San Antonio, Mayweather for the first time called for the fight to happen and even gave a date — May 2. He claimed it wasn't him but Pacquiao's promoter, Bob Arum, who has been the main obstacle for not making the fight in the last five years.

"Floyd Mayweather is not ducking or dodging any opponent," Mayweather said. "Bob Arum is stopping the fight. We have been trying to make this fight happen for many years behind the scene."

Pacquiao turned the pressure up on Mayweather to make the fight last month, saying the time had come to put on the much anticipated bout. Arum said he had also been in talks with CBS Corp. chairman Les Moonves about the fight.

CBS operates Showtime, which has Mayweather under contract for two more fights in May and September.

## Lawmaker: Texas needs less schools in playoffs

AUSTIN, Texas — A West Texas lawmaker says too many high school football teams reach the state playoffs and has introduced a bill that would reduce the number of qualifiers.

Republican Sen. Charles Perry of Lubbock says the University Interscholastic League's playoff system has become "watered down" and allows up to 74 percent of teams to make the playoffs. The bill he filed Thursday looks to reduce the number of schools advancing from each district from four to two.

The bill was filed a few weeks after Houston Scarborough became what's believed to be the first winless team in the Texas football playoffs. Scarborough lost 64-0 in the first round and finished 0-11.

## FSU scoring leader declared ineligible

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida State scoring leader Aaron Thomas has been declared ineligible for the season.

The school announced his removal from the team Friday night in a release. Coach Leonard

Hamilton declined comment in the statement.

The 6-foot-5, 195-pound guard was averaging 14.8 points. He led the team in scoring last season was widely considered the team's best player.

In other college basketball news:

■ Tennessee coach Donnie Tyndall says sophomore forward Dominic Woodson has left the Volunteers and plans to transfer to another university.

Woodson played in four games for the Volunteers this season averaging 3.5 points and 2.0 rebounds in 12 minutes per game. He transferred to Tennessee this summer after leaving Memphis.

## Wisconsin AD Alvarez meets with Schiano

Wisconsin's coaching search will last until at least Wednesday, even if the Badgers have already honed in on a candidate or two.

Amid reports that Pittsburgh coach and former Badgers assistant Paul Chryst has emerged as a leading candidate, athletic director Barry Alvarez released a statement Friday that Wisconsin state law prevents the university from making an offer to anyone before Wednesday.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel first reported that Alvarez met with Chryst in Florida on Thursday, where Alvarez was attending an Outback Bowl promotion. The newspaper cited an unidentified source.

Alvarez on Thursday also met with former Rutgers and Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach Greg Schiano while in Florida, a person familiar with the informal meeting told The Associated Press.

## Hirscher holds off Ligety to win GS

ARE, Sweden — Marcel Hirscher of Austria was fastest in both runs Friday to easily win a World Cup giant slalom raced under floodlights, finishing more than one second ahead of his archrival Ted Ligety.

Hirscher posted a combined time of 2 minutes, 30.18 seconds, with Ligety 1.22 seconds behind.

German skier Luitz Leifermann countryman Fritz Dopfer to take third place.

In other skiing news:

■ Swedish skier Maria Pietilae-Holmner did just enough to protect her first-run lead and win a World Cup slalom race Saturday, beating overall leader Tina Maze by just .06 seconds at Aina, Sweden.

Pietilae-Holmner clinched her first win in nearly four years, winning in a combined time of 1 minute, 43.65 seconds.

The home fans in northern Sweden had even more reason to cheer as Frida Hansdotter finished 32 behind third for her 13th career podium.



BEN MARGO/AP

The Red Sox have rebuilt their starting rotation, acquiring lefty Wade Miley from Arizona on Friday, above, after trading for Detroit right-hander Rick Porcello and signing righty Justin Masterson.

## Trades roundup

## Red Sox pick up three starters for rotation

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Just like that, the Boston Red Sox have a starting rotation again.

One day after acquiring a pair of starters, the Red Sox picked up a third, rebuilding their starting rotation this offseason almost as quickly as they took it apart during the summer.

Hours after trading for Detroit right-hander Rick Porcello on Thursday, Boston signed righty Justin Masterson as a free agent. On Friday, the Red Sox acquired lefty Wade Miley from Arizona for righties Rubby De La Rosa and Allen Webster and infielder Raymel Flores.

"We're in a position where everyone knows we need to add quality starting pitching," general manager Ben Cherington told reporters on the team's second conference call of the night. "We've been able to acquire the three starters we have this week while really being able to maintain the top end of our young pitching."

The Red Sox won the World Series in 2013 with a rotation that included Jon Lester, John Lackey, Jake Peavy and Felix Doubront. By midsummer it was obvious the team would not successfully defend its title in '14, and Cherington traded them all away to start planning for the future.

Lester, who spent his entire

career in the Red Sox organization until he was shipped to Oakland at the trading deadline, was courted to return as a free agent. But when the Chicago Cubs outbid Boston for the 31-year-old lefty, Cherington quickly executed a backup plan.

Now, Masterson, Porcello and Miley will join holdover Clayton Kershaw and one of Boston's young arms — perhaps Anthony Ranaudo or Brandon Workman — in a rotation that is so far lacking an ace.

## Twins set to announce deal with Santana

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Twins called a news conference for Saturday to announce a four-year contract with free-agent right-hander Ervin Santana.

Santana's deal, which guarantees him \$55 million, contains a club option for 2019 that could become guaranteed.

The 32-year-old was 14-10 with a 3.95 ERA for Atlanta this year. He was an AL All-Star with the Los Angeles Angels in 2008.

## Liriano, Pirates finalize \$39M, 3-year contract

PITTSBURGH — The Pirates wanted to keep Francisco Liriano at the top end of their rotation so

badly they offered the left-handed pitcher the most lucrative free agent contract in team history.

General manager Neal Huntington thinks the fact Liriano agreed to a \$39 million, three-year deal so quickly serves as proof that the Pirates have established themselves as a legitimate threat in the NL Central.

The finalized agreement Friday, three days after reaching the deal at the winter meetings, Liriano went 23-18 with a 3.20 ERA for Pittsburgh in 2013 and 2014, helping the franchise reach consecutive playoff berths for the first time in over 20 years.

## Atlanta gives Markakis \$2M signing bonus

ATLANTA — Nick Markakis will receive a \$2 million signing bonus by Jan. 1 as part of his \$44 million, four-year contract with the Atlanta Braves.

Markakis has annual salaries of \$10.5 million as part of the deal, which was announced Dec. 3. He can earn \$50,000 for making the All-Star team, winning an MVP award, earning the World Series MVP honor or getting selected the comeback player of the year.

Markakis can earn \$25,000 apiece for winning a Gold Glove and the League Championship Series MVP.

## NHL/NBA

## NHL roundup

## Florida outlasts Detroit

The Associated Press

DETROIT — A change in the shootout lineup worked perfectly for the Florida Panthers.

Vincent Trocheck and Brandon Pirri had the only goals in the shootout to lift the Panthers to a 3-2 victory over the Detroit Red Wings on Friday night.

Roberto Luongo made 29 saves through overtime and stopped Pavel Datsyuk and Gustav Nyquist in the tiebreaker to give the Panthers their second victory in two meetings against the Red Wings this season.

Trocheck and Pirri haven't normally been sent out for shootouts but coach Gerard Gallant acted on a hunch.

"We wanted to change it up because we've been struggling in the shootout," he said after his team broke an 0-4 drought in tiebreakers.

Tomas Fleischmann and Jonathan Huberdeau scored in the first period for the Panthers.

Riley Sheahan and Nyquist also scored in the first for Detroit and Jimmy Howard finished with 24 saves. The Red Wings dropped their second straight in a shootout and fell to 1-5 in tiebreakers this season.

"It's frustrating, it really is," Howard said after falling to 0-5 in tiebreakers, including a loss to Toronto two nights earlier. "We keep having meeting after meeting about it. We work on it in practice. Just gonna have to stick with it."

Backup Petr Mrazek, who has Detroit's lone shootout win, will start Saturday night in Toronto.

"We played the game we wanted to and we took it to the shootout," Luongo said after his 10th victory. "And in the shootout anything can happen."

**Penguins 3, Flames 1:** Blake Comeau and Kris Letang scored early in the first period to lead host Pittsburgh past Calgary.

Rob Klinkhamer also scored to help the Penguins beat the Flames for the eighth straight time. Pittsburgh's last loss to Calgary was on Dec. 3, 2005.

**Canadiens 6, Kings 2:** Jiri Sekak scored two goals and Carey Price stopped 44 shots to help host Montreal win its second straight.

P.K. Subban had a goal and two assists, David Desharnais and Andre Markov each had a goal and an assist, and Sven Andrighetto also scored for Montreal.

**Ducks 4, Oilers 2:** Sami Vatanen and Ryan Getzlaf each had a goal and an assist as league-leading Anaheim won its sixth straight and ninth in 11 games, beating host Edmonton.

Kyle Palmieri and Nate Thompson also scored for the Ducks.



PAUL SANCIA/AP

Florida center Brandon Pirri (73) celebrates his goal against Detroit during the shootout portion of Friday's game in Detroit.

## NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference							Canadiens 6, Kings 2							
Atlantic Division							Los Angeles							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Tampa Bay	30	19	8	2	41	103	78	30	19	8	2	41	103	78
Detroit	30	10	12	4	20	53	79	30	10	12	4	20	53	79
Montreal	28	10	2	3	35	91	81	28	10	2	3	35	91	81
Toronto	28	16	9	7	35	85	81	28	16	9	7	35	85	81
Florida	27	10	12	7	31	70	70	27	10	12	7	31	70	70
Boston	29	15	13	1	31	74	75	29	15	13	1	31	74	75
Ottawa	28	11	12	5	27	73	79	28	11	12	5	27	73	79
Buffalo	28	11	12	5	24	52	88	28	11	12	5	24	52	88
Metropolitan Division							Los Angeles							
Pittsburgh	28	11	12	5	24	52	88	28	11	12	5	24	52	88
N.Y. Islanders	29	10	10	0	36	93	85	29	10	10	0	36	93	85
Washington	28	13	10	5	31	91	77	28	13	10	5	31	91	77
N.H. Rangers	25	10	11	4	26	77	76	25	10	11	4	26	77	76
New Jersey	30	11	14	5	27	69	87	30	11	14	5	27	69	87
Philadelphia	29	10	13	2	26	74	86	29	10	13	2	26	74	86
Columbus	28	11	15	2	24	67	92	28	11	15	2	24	67	92
Carolina	28	8	17	3	19	60	78	28	8	17	3	19	60	78

**First Period**—1 Montreal, 3 Sean, 5 Montreal, 3-0 Kings  
(Subban, Plekanec), 8:16 (pp.), 3 Kings  
2 Montreal, 2-0 Kings  
(Gonchar, Desharnais), 1:01 (pp.), 3 Kings  
3 Montreal, 3-0 Kings  
(Gonchar, Desharnais), 3:45  
**Third Period**—4 Los Angeles, 4-0 Montreal  
2 (Doughty, Toivola), 2:25, 5 Montreal, 2-0 Kings  
3 Desharnais 3 (Parenteau, Stort), 9:47, 6 Los Angeles, 4-0 Kings  
4 Doughty, 3 (Toivola, Richards), 10:00, 5 Kings, 4-0 Kings  
5 Kings, 5-0 Kings  
6 Kings, 6-0 Kings  
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8 Kings, 8-0 Kings  
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**Low-key opportunities**  
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**Shots on Goal**—Los Angeles 14-14-18  
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**Goalies**—Los Angeles 14-14-18  
6 Montreal 4-7-5-20  
4 Kings 4-7-5-20  
5 Kings 5-0-2 Kings  
6 Kings 6-0 Kings  
7 Kings 7-0 Kings  
8 Kings 8-0 Kings  
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12 Kings

## Western Conference

Central Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Chicago	29	20	8	1	41	91	57
Nashville	28	17	8	2	36	82	62
St. Louis	29	19	8	2	40	86	68
Minnesota	30	15	9	6	36	72	70
Winnipeg	30	15	9	6	36	72	70
Arizona	27	15	11	1	31	77	67
Colorado	29	10	13	6	26	76	95
San Jose	28	11	13	4	26	76	95
Pacific Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Anaheim	29	20	6	5	45	91	62
Vancouver	29	18	9	2	38	88	81
Calgary	31	17	12	2	36	84	83
San Jose	31	16	11	4	36	82	82
Los Angeles	30	15	10	5	35	79	69
Edmonton	29	10	13	2	26	76	95
Seattle	27	7	18	5	19	65	102

**Note:** Two points for a win, one point for an overtime loss.

Florida Panthers, 3, Red Wings 2 (SO)							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Florida	29	20	6	2	42	92	62
Red Wings	29	17	9	3	37	80	67

**First Florida won shootout 2-0**

**Florida won shootout 2-0**

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**Florida Panthers** (29-20-6, 42

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

**Thursday's games**

Colorado 4, Winnipeg 3, 5:00

Chicago 3, Boston 2

Philadelphia 4, New Jersey 1

Columbus 3, Washington 2, OT

Los Angeles 5, Ottawa 3

Tampa Bay 2, Carolina 1

St. Louis 6, N.Y. Islanders 3

Nashville 5, Arizona 1

Minnesota 2, Pittsburgh 3

**Friday's games**

Florida 3, Detroit 2, 5:00

Montreal 6, Los Angeles 2

Anaheim 5, Edmonton 2

**Saturday's games**

Ottawa at Boston

Calgary at Philadelphia

Tampa Bay at Washington

Detroit at Toronto

Chicago at N.Y. Islanders

Pittsburgh at Columbus

San Jose at Dallas

Minnesota at Arizona

St. Louis at Colorado

N.Y. Rangers at Vancouver

Nashville at San Jose

**Sunday's games**

Los Angeles at Toronto

Calgary at Chicago

N.Y. Rangers at Edmonton

**Friday**

**Penguins 3, Flames 1**

Calgary 3, Pittsburgh 3, 1 0 0-1

P.K. Subban 1, 1-3

**First Period—1,** Pittsburgh, Comeau 9

(Mark Borzello), 48, 2, Pittsburgh, Letang 5

(Deshaun Spaulding), 4:43, 3, Calgary, Gaudreau 6

(Granlund, Hudnall), 12:15, 1

Third Period—Pittsburgh, Klinkhamer 4

(Dowdle, Malkin), 17:13, 3

**Shots on Goal—Pittsburgh** 8-6-13-27

**Power-play opportunities—Calgary** 0 of 5

**Goals—Calgary**, Hiller 9-81 (22

shots), Savard 1, Pittsburgh, 7-8-1 (22

shots), 2-27-66.

**A—**18,471 (18,387), T—2:22.

## NBA roundup

## Yung, Lakers top Spurs in OT

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Kobe Bryant didn't catch Michael Jordan, though he got a victory thanks to Nick Young.

Young scored 29 points, including a go-ahead three-pointer with 74 seconds left in overtime, Bryant had 22 and the Los Angeles Lakers overcame a shaky ending to beat the San Antonio Spurs 112-110 on Friday night.

After calling his teammates "soft" in a profanity-laced tirade Thursday following a scrimmage, Bryant was much happier with their efforts against the defending champions.

"Look, we can all criticize my style of leadership all day long," Bryant said. "You can sit there and it's uncomfortable, it's what- ever, but I've been doing that since high school. We play this game to win championships and I have five of them."

"It's worked pretty well throughout my career," Tim Duncan had 19 points and 18 rebounds for San Antonio (16-7), which had its six-game home winning streak snapped in a performance Gregg Popovich called "pitiful."

It might have been good enough without the player nicknamed Swaggy P.

"I'm so happy it ended up in my hands," Young said. "I wanted to shoot that bad, especially being on the floor watching Kobe and playing for the Lakers, nothing like those types of shots."

Young was 30 feet away with Manu Ginobili in his face and the shot clock about to expire.

"The last three, Manu was everything but inside his jersey and he had to adjust his shot in the air and kind of shoot around Manu's hands and it goes in," Duncan said. "If you put a team in a situation like that, things like that can happen. We put the blame on ourselves for the 48-50 minutes before it gets to that point."

Bryant needed 30 points to tie Jordan for third place on the career scoring list, but will have to wait until Sunday in Minnesota to possibly surpass the Hall of Famer.

Bryant's final basket in regulation was a three-pointer in front of Popovich as the shot clock sounded with 1:59 remaining, nodding his head in celebration as he trotted down the court with the Lakers ahead 101-92.

That's when things went wrong for Los Angeles.

San Antonio scored eight points in a minute, capped by Danny Green's three-pointer with 45 seconds left to cut Los Angeles' lead to 101-100.

Bryant missed his final five shots while going 7-for-22, giving up numerous shot opportunities in favor of firing passes to his teammates. He finished with nine assists, but many of his passes led to secondary feeds for baskets.

"He was doubled a lot, but I thought he was going to try and get it out, look for the open man or the open shot and knock down those buckets."

**Pistons 105, Suns 103:** Visiting Detroit ended a 13-game losing streak as Andre Drummond had 23 points and 14 rebounds in a win over Phoenix.

**Knicks 104, Celtics 95:** Carmelo Anthony scored 22 points, Amare Stoudemire had 20 and visiting New York snapped a 10-game losing streak by beating Boston.

**Pelicans 119, Cavaliers 114:** Tyreke Evans had 31 points and 10 assists, Ryan Anderson tied a career high with eight three-pointers on his way to 30 points, and host New Orleans overcame the loss of Anthony Davis to beat LeBron James and Cleveland.

**Bulls 115, Trail Blazers 105:** Derrick Rose scored a season-high 31 points and host Chicago beat Portland.

**Hawks 87, Magic 81:** Paul Millsap scored 23 points, Al Horford added 17 and host Atlanta won its ninth straight game, beating Orlando.

**Heat 100, Jazz 95:** Dwyane Wade scored a season-high 29 points, including three free throws in the final 9 seconds, to help visiting Miami beat Utah.

**Grizzlies 113, Hornets 107** (20:22): Mike Conley scored six of his 19 points in the second overtime, and host Memphis beat Charlotte.

**Thunder 111, Timberwolves 92:** Russell Westbrook scored 20 of his 34 points in the first half and visiting Oklahoma City beat Minnesota for its fifth straight victory.

**Nets 88, 76ers 70:** Mason Plumlee scored a season-high 18 points and had 10 rebounds, and host Brooklyn broke open a close game in the fourth quarter to beat Philadelphia.

**Raptors 106, Pacers 94:** Jonas Valanciunas had 10 points and 14 rebounds, Lou Williams scored 26 and host Toronto handed Indiana its seventh straight loss.





## COLLEGE BASKETBALL/COLLEGE FOOTBALL



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Iowa State forward Dustin Hogue, right, grabs a rebound in front of Iowa center Gabriel Olesen, left, on Friday in Iowa City, Iowa.

## No. 14 Iowa State pounds rival Iowa

BY LUKE MEREDITH  
The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — The one-game suspension for star Bryce Dejean-Jones was handed out just a day before Iowa State's biggest game so far.

The Cyclones responded to their first dose of adversity with their best win of the season.

Naz Long scored a season-high 21 points and 14th-ranked Iowa State pounded Iowa 90-75 on the road Friday night without Dejean-Jones.

Reserve Abdel Nader scored 19 points and Georges Niang had 16 with seven assists for the Cyclones (7-1), who opened the second half on a 21-2 run to pull away from the rival Hawkeyes.

"This defined us. It showed character. You know, all the guys in there before the game were saying 'Let's do this for Bryce,'" Long said.

Cyclones coach Fred Hoiberg suspended Dejean-Jones, the team's second-leading scorer at 17.1 points per game, after he was arrested Thursday on a marijuana charge and noise violations. The pot charge was quickly dismissed by a judge, but the noise charges are pending.

Aaron White had 18 points for Iowa (8-3). The Hawkeyes finished 1-3 against Power 5 non-conference opponents — and they still have to play No. 23 Northern Iowa next week on a neutral floor. "We were trying to go inside,"

Iowa coach Fran McCaffery said. "We missed a couple of opportunities and we turned it over a couple times trying to feed the post. Then we were tentative throwing to the post."

Iowa State pushed a two-point lead to 64-39 early in the second half, turning what had been a tight game into a rout. The Cyclones shot 12-for-27 from three-point range, with Long and Nader combining for nine of those threes.

The efforts of Long, Nader and their teammates made it hard to tell that the Cyclones were missing one of their best players.

The teams went back and forth in an entertaining and tight first half. But Matt Thomas made a transition three at the first-half buzzer, giving the Cyclones a 38-33 lead.

Niang opened the second half with his first three. His dunk made it 45-35 and forced McCaffery to call timeout in an effort to keep things from getting worse for the Hawkeyes.

It didn't work.

Iowa turned it over on four straight possessions, and threes from Long and Nader put Iowa State ahead 59-35.

"We felt we had talented guys to step in there. They just went out and fought for each other," Hoiberg said.

The Hawkeyes went nearly nine minutes between field goals. By the time they finally hit a basket, the game was out of hand.

Peter Jok had 14 points for Iowa.

## Auburn hires ex-Gators coach Muschamp as DC

Tigers bringing in former SEC coach of the year to revitalize defense

BY JOHN ZENOR  
The Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — Auburn hired former Florida coach Will Muschamp as defensive coordinator Friday, hoping he can rebuild a defense that struggled badly late in the season.

"I'm excited to welcome Will back to Auburn as our new defensive coordinator," Tigers coach Gus Malzahn said. "Will is one of the top defensive minds in college football who has great passion and energy for the game. He is a tremendous addition to our staff."

A person with knowledge of the move said Muschamp will make \$1.6 million a year, making him one of college football's highest paid assistants. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the school didn't release terms of the deal.

"My family, Carol, Jackson, Whit, and I are excited about coming back to Auburn and I look forward to working with coach Malzahn to win championships," Muschamp said.

Muschamp will be introduced at a news conference Saturday.

He coached Florida's final two regular-season games after being fired Nov. 16. Muschamp posted a 28-21 record in four seasons during an up-and-down tenure that included an 11-2 record and SEC coach of the year honors in 2012.

The Gators' biggest struggles came on offense — not on the side of the ball that is Muschamp's specialty.

Malzahn fired longtime Southeastern Conference defensive coordinator Ellis Johnson after the season. The Tigers (8-4) will face Wisconsin in the Outback Bowl on Jan. 1 in a season when they had national championship aspirations until defensive problems contributed to a late collapse. Auburn ended the regular season with a 55-44 loss to No. 1 Alabama.

The Tigers allowed an average of 483 yards and 39 points over their last six SEC games, losing four of them.

Muschamp was Auburn's defensive coordinator from 2006-07, and led the nation's third-ranked scoring defense, allowing 15.4 points per game. He was a finalist for the 2007 Broyles Award given to the nation's top assistant



JOHN RAOU/AP

Former Florida head coach Will Muschamp is returning to Auburn as defensive coordinator after four seasons leading the Gators. Muschamp was previously the defensive coordinator at Auburn from 2006-07.

### Did you know

This will be Muschamp's second tenure as Auburn defensive coordinator. He first served in that capacity from 2006-07. Muschamp was also a graduate assistant at Auburn from 1995-96.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

coach. Muschamp then spent three seasons as defensive coordinator at Texas before taking over the Florida program.

He was also defensive coordinator at LSU from 2002-04 and was the Miami Dolphins' assistant head coach for defense in 2005 under current Alabama coach Nick Saban. He coached in national championship games in 2003 with LSU and 2009 with Texas.

Muschamp's teams ranked among the nation's top 10 in total defense in each of his five seasons as an SEC defensive coordinator.

His teams twice led the nation in rushing defense.

Muschamp's Texas defenses led the nation with 119 sacks from 2008-10. Auburn struggled to get pressure on the quarterback last season.

This is actually his third stop at Auburn, where he was a graduate assistant from 1995-96.

## NFL



TIM SHARP/AP

Philadelphia's LeSean McCoy, left, celebrates in front of Dallas' Barry Church as he sprints into the end zone for a touchdown during the second half of the Eagles' 33-10 victory on Thanksgiving in Arlington, Texas.

# Kelly goes against grain

## Eagles coach doesn't share hatred of Cowboys

By ROB MAADDI  
The Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA**—From Tom Landry, Jimmy Johnson and Jason Garrett to Dick Vermeil, Buddy Ryan and Andy Reid, the men in charge have changed while the rivalry remains intense.

No matter the coaches, the players or the records, it's always a big game when the Philadelphia Eagles play the Dallas Cowboys. First place in the NFC East is on the line for Sunday night's prime-time matchup between the two 9-4 teams.

Chip Kelly understands fans in Philadelphia strongly dislike the Cowboys, but he doesn't share those feelings.

"I've never been a hate guy. I don't hate anybody we've ever played," Kelly said. "I've got the utmost respect for them and I hope when we have an opportunity to play any team that we play, they are at their full strength. That's the best part about it; that's when you really, truly get two competitors going against it."

Ryan was revered in Philadelphia because he often beat the Cowboys during his tenure as coach from 1986-90. The brash and bombastic Ryan didn't hide his animosity for Landry or Johnson. During a game against Landry's Cowboys following the 1987 strike, Ryan ordered Randall Cunningham to fake taking a knee and throw deep to run up the score because he felt Dallas did that to Philadelphia's replacement players.

Then there was the "Bounty Bowl" game



TIM SHARP/AP

Dallas quarterback Tony Romo, right, had nice things to say about Philadelphia quarterback Mark Sanchez, left, after the teams met for the first time this season.

on Thanksgiving Day 1989 when players said Ryan offered money to whoever knocked kicker Luis Zendejas or quarterback Troy Aikman out of the game.

So despite his 0-3 record in the playoffs, Ryan is beloved by Eagles fans.

The same fans once threw snowballs at Johnson at old Veterans Stadium. They also cheered the ambulance that drove Michael Irvin off the field after he suffered a career-ending injury in 1999.

But Kelly does things his way. He even said he would allow the Cowboys to practice on his team's field if the situation arose

and they needed it.

"I understand (fans hate the Cowboys) but that's not the way we're wired," Kelly said. "I think I want to compete against the best, and it's the same thing if we went to go play any other place in the NFL, they would allow us to practice at their facility. When I was in college, everybody allowed us to practice. USC practiced at our place when we were at Oregon and we could practice at their place. That's what this deal is all about."

Players change teams so much these days in the NFL that it's difficult to find players who feel the same way fans do about rivals. Only a decade ago, there were Eagles like Brian Dawkins who echoed the city's feelings about Dallas.

"As long as they have that star on their helmet, it's still the Cowboys," Dawkins once said.

Players such as Cowboys wide receiver Dez Bryant still do plenty of trash-talking. Bryant called Philadelphia's cornerbacks "cheap" after the Eagles beat Dallas 33-10 on Thanksgiving.

The quarterbacks, however, traded compliments.

"It's just great to see someone be resilient and take adversity and come back stronger from it," Romo said of Mark Sanchez. "And that's what Mark's done and I think it's a great lesson for a lot of people. I think when you look at it closely, it'd be better if he didn't do it with the Eagles, but I think he's done a great job."

# Seattle's top DLs in it for long haul

By TIM BOOTH  
The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — When Michael Bennett decided to sign with Seattle during the 2013 offseason, part of the attraction was the idea that he'd no longer be asked to play nearly every down and wouldn't be worn out by the end of the season.

Last season, that's almost exactly how it played out for Bennett and the rest of Seattle's defensive line. This season, not so much.

Bennett, Cliff Avril and the rest of Seattle's front four have seen their snap counts increase significantly this season and especially in the past three weeks. The rotation Seattle used with such effectiveness in its run to the Super Bowl has been reduced.

"That's just how it is," Bennett said. "It doesn't bother me. I'm just moving around a lot and trying to make as many plays as I can. I was telling somebody the other day, on this team, statistically you will never be at the top of any position like you want. You won't have the most interceptions, you won't have the most tackles, and you'll just be on a really good defense that will play for each other. I think that's what is so special about this team."

Seattle is on a run of defensive success that has been rare in the NFL in recent seasons. The Seahawks have allowed just 507 total yards in the past three games, fourth-fewest since 2006. But with those lockdown performances against Arizona, San Francisco and Philadelphia has come an increased workload for Bennett, Avril and others.

Bennett played 98 percent of the defensive snaps against Arizona, 81 percent against San Francisco and 93 percent against the Eagles. Bruce Irvin played every snap against both Arizona and San Francisco before playing 30 of 46 against the Eagles. Avril has played at least 75 percent of the snaps in each of the last three games.

"Down the stretch we're just playing the games. Whatever we need in the rotations we're going with," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "There is no pitch-count here with these guys. We have rotations in mind but we only had 46 plays last week so we were fortunate in that sense. Nobody was overplayed there."

Last season, no Seattle defensive lineman played more than 60.6 percent of his possible defensive snaps, according to STATS.

Bennett was in on 57.4 percent of the defensive plays. Avril was in on 56 percent of the snaps.

**‘Down the stretch we’re just playing the games. Whatever we need in the rotations we’re going with. There is no pitch-count here with these guys.’**

Pete Carroll  
Seattle coach



## NFL

# Peterson denied

## League arbitrator rejects Vikings running back's suspension appeal

By DAVE CAMPBELL  
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Adrian Peterson's appeal was stopped for no gain, when the NFL's unpaid suspension of the star running back was stayed until next spring.

Peterson won't be considered for reinstatement before April 15, and by then he might not be with the Minnesota Vikings anymore. He'll likely be the plaintiff in a lawsuit against the league, though.

Harold Henderson, the league-appointed arbitrator who heard Peterson's appeal, released Friday his decision affirming the Nov. 18 punishment levied by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell for the child-abuse case that kept Peterson out of all but one game this season. He'd been on paid leave, even during the appeal, but Henderson's ruling translated to a fine of more than \$4.1 million. That's the six-game portion of his salary this year.

The NFL Players Association argued that Peterson's time on the exempt list, at Goodell's sole discretion, should have counted as time served toward a suspension. That's one of the many grievances the union will likely raise in court. The rift between the league and the NFLPA over the fairness of the disciplinary

process has widened this season while the cases of Peterson and former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice played out.

According to a person with direct knowledge of the situation, a complaint will be filed against the NFL on Peterson's behalf in federal court in Minnesota as early as Monday. The person spoke Friday to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the lawsuit had not yet been finalized.

Nothing is final about Peterson's status with the Vikings, either, and coaches and players have said often this year they'd welcome him back. But in an interview Friday with ESPN.com, Peterson said he's been so frustrated by this process with the NFL that he's considered retiring. Focusing on real estate instead and even trying out as an Olympic sprinter in the 200-meter and 400-meter dashes have entered his mind as options, he said.

"You only live once. It might be time for me to pursue that," Peterson told ESPN.com.

In an ironic twist, Peterson probably wouldn't have been punished as much had the public backlash to the initial leniency for Rice not been so severe. Now Rice is reinstated and Peterson remains suspended, though Rice doesn't have a team.



CARLOS GONZALEZ, MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/TNS

League-appointed arbitrator Harold Henderson rejected the suspension appeal of Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson on Friday. Peterson cannot be considered for reinstatement until April 15.

# Time: Browns look to rookie QB Manziel to lead playoff push

## FROM BACK PAGE

At Texas A&M, he ran a simple offense that consisted of Manziel mostly taking the snap in the shotgun. If his receivers were covered, Manziel would spin, duck, jump, whatever he had to do to buy time until they got open. If they didn't, he took off running to avoid a sack.



Shanahan

Cleveland offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan said he's not sure what to expect from the cocksure Manziel.

"I'm sure it's going to happen pretty fast," Shanahan said this week. "We call a pass play, and he's going to do six spins reversing back and forth outside the pocket. I'm going to hold my breath, be yelling half the time, and then probably be running and jumping on top of him excited at the end of it."

"Who knows what will happen? That's why everyone enjoys watching him, and that's why I'm excited to see what he does. It'll be fun." The Browns, at 7-6, need more than entertainment out of



MARK DUNCAN/AP

Cleveland Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel, left, hands off to running back Terrance West during practice in Berea, Ohio, on Wednesday. After spending 13 games as a backup, Manziel will start Sunday when the Browns, with their playoff chances on the line, host the Cincinnati Bengals.

Manziel. They need him to take care of the ball, make good decisions, and inject some energy into Cleveland's lifeless offense. Manziel may be the 21st quarterback to start for the Browns since 1999, but the team is discarding its sordid history at the position to see what the 22-year-old can do.

With a week to install plays to best use Manziel's arm and legs, the Browns hope to keep the Bengals off balance. But the bigger issue may be getting Manziel to understand that he doesn't have to transform every play into a TV highlight.

Browns coach Mike Pettine doesn't want to put a collar on Manziel, but he doesn't want him running wild.

"It's going to be more within the structure of our offense, but at the same time, if you have a guy that has a unique skillset, you don't want to quell that, either," he said. "You want to allow him to do it, but you've got to be able to pick and choose your times to do it. On every drop-back pass he cannot look to turn it into a punt return."

"We just don't want to turn it into, 'Hey, let's run his college offense and let it turn into street ball,' but we also don't want to say, 'Hey listen, here's the playbook. We need to follow this exactly to the letter.' We're not going to do that, either."



# GAMEDAY

**WEEK 15**

TELEVISED GAMES


**Pittsburgh Steelers (8-5)  
at Atlanta Falcons (8-8)**

 AFN-Atlantic  
7 p.m. Sunday CET

**Series:** Steelers lead 12-2-1.

**Last meeting:** Pittsburgh beat visiting Atlanta 15-9 in overtime on Sept. 12, 2010.

**Notes:** Steelers RB Le'Veon Bell last week became the second player in NFL history with 200-plus yards from scrimmage in three consecutive games (Walter Payton, 1977). ... Falcons QB Matt Ryan is 39-12 (.765) at the Georgia Dome with 84 TDs, 32 INTs and a 98 rating.

**Miami Dolphins (7-6)  
at New England Patriots (10-3)**

 AFN-Sports  
7 p.m. Sunday CET

**Series:** Dolphins lead 51-44.

**Last meeting:** Miami beat visiting New England 33-20 in the season opener on Sept. 7.

**Notes:** Dolphins QB Ryan Tannehill has won his past two starts against the Pats, passing for 490 yards with 5 TDs for a 101.7 rating. ... Patriots TE Rob Gronkowski is the 1st TD in NFL history with four 10-TD seasons. He needs 3 receiving yards to reach 1,000 for the second time (1,327 in 2011).

## Marquee matchup

### Dallas Cowboys (9-4) at Philadelphia Eagles (9-4)

AFN-Sports, 2:20 a.m. Monday Central European Time

**SERIES RECORD:** Cowboys lead 59-48; Eagles have won the past two.

**LAST MEETING:** Eagles beat Cowboys 33-10 on Nov. 27 at Dallas.

**COWBOYS OFFENSE:** OVERALL (9), RUSH (3), PASS (18).

**COWBOYS DEFENSE:** OVERALL (22), RUSH (17), PASS (25).

**EAGLES OFFENSE:** OVERALL (5), RUSH (7), PASS (8).

**EAGLES DEFENSE:** OVERALL

(24), RUSH (18), PASS (26).

**STREAKS, STATS AND**
**NOTES:** The Cowboys are

an NFL-best 6-0 on the

road this season. ... QB Tony

Romo ranks second in

the league with a 108.8

rating. He has a 125

rating on the road.

RB DeMarco

Murray leads the NFL with 1,606 rushing yards. Last week, he tied Hall of Famer Emmitt Smith for the most 100-yard rushing games by a Cowboy in a season (11) ... WR Dez Bryant has 1,000-plus yards (1,034) and 10-plus TDs (10) for the third consecutive season, tied for the longest streak in team history ... TE Jason Witten needs four catches for an 11th consecutive season with 50-plus. ... Eagles QB Mark Sanchez has won both career starts against Dallas ... RB LeSean McCoy has 290 rushing yards and 2 TDs in the past two meetings. He had 159 yards and a TD in the Week 13 meeting ... RB Darren Sproles has 4 TDs (3 rushing, 1 punt return) in the past four home games ... WR Jeremy Maclin has 47 catches for 664 yards and 6 TDs in the past seven games ... Rookie WR Jordan Matthews has 5 TDs in the past six games, including the Week 13 meeting with Dallas ... Philadelphia has 9 players with a return TD, tied for the most in a season in NFL history ... LB Connor Barwin leads the NFC with 13 1/2 sacks.



Game capsules compiled from nflmedia.com

**Dallas Cowboys running back DeMarco Murray rushed for 179 yards last week, giving him 11 100-yard games this season.**
**Rob T. ENNIS  
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/TNS**

**Denver Broncos (10-3)  
at San Diego Chargers (8-5)**

 AFN-Sports  
10 p.m. Sunday CET

**Series:** Broncos lead 59-49-1.

**Last meeting:** Denver beat visiting San Diego 35-21 on Oct. 23.

**Notes:** Broncos QB Peyton Manning is tied for the NFL lead with 36 TD passes and is the only player in league history to have 35-plus in four seasons. ... Chargers TE Antonio Gates had 2 TD receptions in the last meeting. He needs one more to tie the Patriots' Rob Gronkowski as the only TEs in NFL history with four 10-TD seasons.

**San Francisco 49ers (7-6)  
at Seattle Seahawks (9-4)**

AFN-Xtra

10 p.m. Sunday CET

**Series:** Seahawks lead 16-15.

**Last meeting:** Seattle beat host San Francisco 19-3 on Nov. 27.

**Notes:** QB Colin Kaepernick has posted a 100-plus rating 16 times as a starter, and the 49ers are 15-1 in those games. ... Seahawks QB Russell Wilson is 3-0 at home against San Francisco and has a 103.9 rating. He has 37 TDs, 11 INTs and a 102.2 rating in 24 home starts (including playoffs).

**Also on AFN:** Houston Texans (7-6) at Indianapolis Colts (9-4), AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. Sunday CET.  
Minnesota Vikings (6-7) at Detroit Lions (9-4), AFN-Atlantic, 10 p.m. Sunday CET.

## EXPANDED STANDINGS

### American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
New England	10	3	0	.769	401	267	6-0-0	4-3-0	7-2-0	3-1-0	2-1-0	
Miami	7	6	0	.538	314	260	3-3-0	4-3-0	6-4-0	1-2-0	3-1-0	
Buffalo	7	6	0	.538	281	241	4-3-0	3-3-0	4-6-0	3-0-0	0-4-0	
N.Y. Jets	2	11	0	.154	214	349	2-5-0	0-6-0	2-7-0	0-4-0	0-4-0	
Indianapolis	9	4	0	.692	407	307	5-2-0	4-2-0	7-3-0	2-1-0	4-0-0	
Houston	7	6	0	.538	314	260	3-3-0	4-3-0	6-3-0	1-3-0	3-1-0	
Tennessee	2	11	0	.154	220	374	1-5-0	1-6-0	2-7-0	0-4-0	1-3-0	
Jacksonville	2	11	0	.154	199	356	2-5-0	0-6-0	1-8-0	1-3-0	0-4-0	
Cincinnati	8	4	1	.654	281	289	4-2-1	4-2-0	5-4-0	3-0-1	2-2-0	
Pittsburgh	8	5	0	.615	362	319	4-2-0	4-3-0	7-3-0	1-2-0	3-2-0	
Baltimore	8	5	0	.615	356	255	4-2-0	4-3-0	4-5-0	4-0-0	2-3-0	
Cleveland	7	6	0	.538	276	270	4-3-0	3-3-0	4-6-0	3-0-0	2-2-0	
Denver	10	3	0	.769	385	293	7-0-0	3-3-0	8-1-0	2-2-0	4-0-0	
San Diego	8	5	0	.615	293	272	5-2-0	3-3-0	6-4-0	2-1-0	2-2-0	
Kansas City	7	6	0	.538	291	241	4-2-0	3-4-0	5-4-0	2-2-0	1-3-0	
Oakland	2	11	0	.154	200	350	2-5-0	0-6-0	1-8-0	1-3-0	1-3-0	

### National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	PF	PA	Home	Away	NFC	AFC	Div
Philadelphia	9	4	0	.692	389	309	6-1-0	3-3-0	5-4-0	4-0-0	3-0-0	
Dallas	9	4	0	.692	343	301	3-4-0	6-0-0	6-4-0	3-0-0	2-2-0	
N.Y. Giants	4	9	0	.308	293	326	2-4-0	2-5-0	2-7-0	2-2-0	1-3-0	
Washington	3	10	0	.231	244	346	2-4-0	1-6-0	1-8-0	2-2-0	1-2-0	
Atlanta	5	8	0	.385	328	342	3-3-0	2-5-0	5-5-0	0-3-0	4-0-0	
New Orleans	5	8	0	.385	333	359	3-4-0	2-4-0	4-5-0	1-3-0	2-2-0	
Carolina	4	8	1	.346	269	341	2-4-0	2-4-1	4-6-0	0-2-1	2-2-0	
Tampa Bay	2	11	0	.154	237	348	0-6-0	2-5-0	1-8-0	1-3-0	0-4-0	
Green Bay	10	3	0	.769	423	304	7-0-0	3-3-0	7-3-0	3-0-0	4-1-0	
Detroit	9	4	0	.692	265	224	6-1-0	3-3-0	7-2-0	2-2-0	3-0-0	
Minnesota	6	7	0	.462	263	281	4-3-0	2-4-0	5-5-0	1-2-0	0-4-0	
Chicago	5	8	0	.385	281	378	2-4-0	3-4-0	4-5-0	1-3-0	1-3-0	
Arizona	11	3	0	.786	287	244	7-0-0	4-3-0	8-2-0	3-1-0	3-1-0	
Seattle	9	4	0	.692	322	235	5-1-0	4-3-0	7-2-0	2-2-0	2-1-0	
San Francisco	7	6	0	.538	244	268	3-3-0	4-3-0	6-4-0	1-2-0	1-3-0	
St. Louis	6	8	0	.429	291	297	3-4-0	3-4-0	4-6-0	2-2-0	2-3-0	

## REST OF THE SCHEDULE

 Oakland at Kansas City  
Washington at N.Y. Giants  
Jacksonville at Baltimore  
Green Bay at Buffalo  
Tampa Bay at Carolina  
Cincinnati at Cleveland  
N.Y. Jets at Tennessee  
Monday  
New Orleans at Chicago

## NEXT WEEK

**Thursday, Dec. 18**  
Tennessee at Jacksonville  
**Saturday, Dec. 20**  
Philadelphia at Washington  
San Diego at San Francisco  
**Sunday, Dec. 21**  
Baltimore at Houston  
Detroit at Chicago  
Atlanta at New Orleans  
Minnesota at Miami  
Cleveland at Carolina  
Green Bay at Tampa Bay  
Kansas City at Pittsburgh  
New England at N.Y. Jets  
N.Y. Giants at St. Louis  
Buffalo at Oakland  
Indianapolis at Dallas  
Seattle at Arizona  
**Monday, Dec. 22**  
Denver at Cincinnati

## SPORTS



## Changing of the guard?

Wizards' Wall dominates Paul in win over Clippers | Page 27

NFL

## Party time

Rookie QB Manziel getting his shot with Cleveland

By TOM WITHERS  
The Associated Press

**J**ohnny Manziel should come with a warning sticker: Watching can be hazardous to your health.

On Sunday, the NFL will get its first extended look at Manziel, the hyped rookie quarterback who, depending on whom you talk to, is either the next big thing or everything that's wrong with today's athlete.

Manziel routinely turned broken plays into touchdowns at Texas A&M University, and will now try to rescue the Browns' wilting play-off hopes in his first career start against the Cincinnati Bengals.

He will take the knowledge he has gathered from spending

months learning as a backup behind Brian Hoyer, who helped make the Browns relevant again before it seems the pressure of playing in his hometown, trying to earn a new contract, and having Johnny Football over his shoulder became too much.

Manziel is a social media sensation and a star to a young generation of fans, and there's no denying his ability to drop jaws in a packed stadium, and keep defensive coordinators up at night.

SEE TIME ON PAGE 30

**'Who knows what will happen? That's why everyone enjoys watching him, and that's why I'm excited to see what he does.'**

**Kyle Shanahan**  
Browns' offensive coordinator,  
on rookie QB Johnny Manziel



ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS WARE/TNS

Auburn hires Muschamp as defensive coordinator | College football, Page 28